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SOCCER

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ERICSSON CUP STATS & FIXTURES — PG 11



The times they are a changing' rendered a well known folk singer in the 1960s. 'May you live in interesting times' is a Chinese curse.

Well, the World Game in Australia can be said to be going through changing and for some clubs, interesting times.

Allow some latitude to think outside the established situation and consider a few abstract ideas for a moment.

Take attendances at the end of four rounds. They are, as a total, up on last season. However there are some shining examples and other worrisome trends.

Perth are obviously appealing in a most positive fashion to the locals to come out and support their team against the invaders from 'over East'. So far it is working, and the crowds at Perth Oval are very gratifying.

If Collingwood continue to do even reasonably well then they can expect attendances of more than 15,000. An unbelievably good figure for their first season.

Marconi must be heartened by the number of fans going through the gates. However, near neighbours Sydney United appear to have a real challenge on their hands.

The Lakers, despite their poor start, are dragging in good figures and when they click, so no doubt will their turnstiles. They are marketing their product well.

Down the Latrobe Valley they must be having sleepless nights, wondering how to pluck people from their other pursuits to go along to Falcons Park.

The effort being exerted on the Illawarra by Wollongong has pulled in more followers but they know there is large untapped pool of Soccer folks who still stay away.

Brisbane are having a purple patch. They have a massive market all to themselves. Their home ground, Lang Park now called Suncorp Stadium, is a superb venue, despite this the attendances can't be satisfying the officials.

Crowds in the middle teens of thousands were common in Newcastle in the early days of the national league. Maybe those days are gone along with the majority of the people attending. Have they just died and their younger replacements never taken up the habit?

Sydney United and Melbourne Knights are watched by meagre numbers. Both clubs have enjoyed success, the Knights more so but still they can't seem to get decent and consistent crowds behind them. Is their approach wrong?

Adelaide? Two clubs both in the city. West Adelaide desperately seeking a long term identity, if they don't they could fade, as they attract few. The Zebras on the other hand seem to be able to pull a large number of followers and so they should. They have played fine, flowing football since 1977.

Perth and Collingwood are in. Carlton are coming. Where else could clubs emerge in this vast continent? How about around Townsville? The code is strong there and that area is generally starved of top quality sport.

Then there's the area north of Adelaide around Salisbury and Elizabeth. Apparently 90% of registered Soccer players in South Australia live in that northern belt. So with a decent stadium, backing from the local car manufacturers, Holden and Mitsubishi, we could have a ready-made replacement, if a vacancy occurs.

What about the mid west of NSW around Orange or even Dubbo? Plenty of potential, very large number of players, and rugby league is short of cash in those areas.

Whatever changes occur in these interesting times, existing and new clubs must aim for full time professionalism both with playing staff and management. It is no longer good enough to have part timers or to have untrained and family members running the so-called marketing and press relations. To continue on these latter paths is a certain way to see the Club fade and even die.

Aussies down South Africans

Australia's Olympic team Aopened a two-match tour by defeating its South African counterpart 2-0 at Secunda last Wednesday.

The home side dominated the opening half in this town south-east of Johannesburg only to fall behind after 40 minutes when Con Blatsis side-footed the ball home in a goalmouth scramble.

Australia gained control during the second half and clinched victory with 13 minutes left when Michael Curcija ran on to a through ball and scored with a low shot into the corner.

The visitors forced a 1-1 draw in Johannesburg on Saturday, to take the series.

Australia was more imaginative and penetrative during the first half and took a 20th-minute lead through Curcija.

The Lakers forward gained



Michael Curcija: South Melbourne. Lakers young and promising striker.

possession on the edge of the penalty area, beat one defender and struck a low shot past goalkeeper Brian Baloyi into the corner of the net bringing up his second for the series.

South African midfielder Junaid Hartley almost levelled

within 60 seconds but his shot trickled wide of the post with Australian goalkeeper and captain Danny Milosevic stranded.

Hartley came close again soon after half-time before Bruce Ramokadi equalised in the 51st minute with a close-

range shot after Milosevic parried a drive.

The 1,700m altitude and heat took its toll on the visitors in the closing stages as South Africa took control of midfield and came close to snatching victory on several occasions.

THAI TEAM IN TOWN

Parramatta City Council and Parramatta Eagles Soccer Club are hosting a visit by the Thai Under 16 National Football (Soccer) Team as part of an exchange visit with Parramatta's Sister City, Phetchaburi Province.

The Thai team has recently successfully participated in the Asian Qualification Tournament and have earned themselves a place in the finals to be played in Egypt in 1997.

The team will be staying at the Ramada Hotel (Parramatta) and meals have been arranged at local restaurants including Hungry Jacks and Buffetland both at Parramatta, Thim Thai at Granville and the Eagles Nest

Restaurant located at Melita Stadium. Transport is being provided by Trailer Tours. And a visit has been arranged to Australia's Wonderland as guests of the Fun Park.

Two official receptions have been arranged for the visitors one by Parramatta City Council and the other by the Hon. Gabrielle Harrison MP, Minister for Sport in NSW.

Three matches have been arranged, the first being against the Joys before they embark on their South American tour, the second against a Parramatta Eagles select and the third against the NSW Institute of Sport.

See the advertisement on this page for details.



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MATCH REPORTS

PUMAS SCORE TWELVE IN FOUR

Sydney United 3 Melbourne Knights 1

By TED SIMMONS-AAP

A daring 15-metre lobbed header by striker David Zdrilic put Sydney United on track for a 3-1 win over defending champions Melbourne Knights in the re-arranged Ericsson Cup match at Edensor Park last Wednesday.

Zdrilic positioned himself perfectly for a long, high cross from co-striker Ante Milicic. The attacking flanker connected with the ball skimming it on an angle over the hands of opposition goalkeeper Vilson Knezevic into the far corner of the net.

"We're riding high at the moment and have to take advantage of the good football we're playing," said Pumas coach Branko Culina.

"It's a pity we can't stage the game against Olympic (last Sunday) at Parramatta Stadium because it would draw more than 15,000 people."

The Pumas had to come from behind following a scoreless first half after the Knights succeeded in one of their few close range attacks. Six minutes into the second session United failed to clear a corner and a chip by David Cervinski was slipped past keeper Zeljko Kalac by mid-fielder Ivo Kutlesovski.

United had been showing superior attacking skills and the setback sparked a barrage on the Melbourne goal. Substitute Damir Cvetko was foiled at close range in the 57th minute after being on the field less than 60 seconds, but one minute later the scores were level.

Velimir Kupresak hit a rebound from a corner to equalise and Zdrilic put United in front four minutes later.

Cvetko completed the scoring two minutes into extra time when he broke free and hammered a low shot through the keeper's hands.

"We ran out of steam in the last 15 minutes and got caught," said Knights coach Ian Dobson.

"United is an attacking and very good side but we are slowly improving as the weeks go by."

The Knights should have had the opening goal in the 12th minute when Andrew Marth hit a shot from point blank range only to see Kalac bring off a superb block.

United played smooth, one touch football, making full use of Zdrilic and Ante Moric on the wings which created problems for the slower moving Knights defence. United had a number of first half chances through Milicic, Zdrilic and Robert Enes but none were put away.

The Pumas maintained their remarkable opening run of having scored three goals in each of their four games.



Ante Moric: Proved a problem for the slower moving Knights defence.

Sydney United: Kalac, Trajkovski, Kupresak, Popovic, M Babic, Enes (Rudan 82), Moric, Manusic, Milicic, Zdrilic, Bilokapic (Cvetko 55).

☆☆☆

Melbourne Knights: Knezevic, D Cervinski (Duzel 68), Z Markovski, Marth, Simunic, Lapasansky, J Markovski (Tsirtsakis 74), Kutlesovski (Tropkovic 82), Vojtek, T Pondeljak, Banini.
Yellow Cards: United: Trajkovski (15), Kalac (36), Enes (50).
Scorers: United: Kupresak (58), Zdrilic (64), Cvetko (90).
Knights: Kutlesovski (51).
Referee: B Hugo.
Crowd: 2000.
POY: 3 - Zdrilic (SU)
2 - Kupresak (SU)
1 - Vojtek (MK)



David Cervinski: Provided a neat chip.

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ERICSSON CUP

MATCH REPORTS

PUZZLING DECISIONS BAFFLE CROWD

Wollongong City 1

By PHIL MURPHY

South Melbourne 1

South Melbourne played for the last hour with 10 men but still managed a 1-1 draw against a Wollongong City outfit who seem to have lost the will to win.

The visitors led 1-0 when centre-back Nick Orlic was sent from the field by referee Con Diomis for a professional foul on Tony Perinich.

South Melbourne players surrounded Diomis after the sendoff, Paul Trimboli lucky not to follow his team-mate after an incident during the confrontation.

Diomis finished with nine yellow cards and a red but the game was never in any danger of getting out of hand.

South Melbourne finished with five bookings and Wollongong with four but one

or two of the cards appeared very harsh.

South Melbourne coach Angie Postecoglou clashed with Diomis as the referee walked from the field.

Postecoglou said later it was going to be a good game. "What happened was there for everyone to see," he said.

"My players showed a lot of character to get a point. I believe I now have my best squad available and we can make an impact on this league."

Wolves coach Nick Theodorakopoulos surprisingly didn't criticise his players but said he doubted they could make the playoffs on that performance.

After Orlic left the scene, Wollongong dominated the game but didn't have the

hunger to claim the three points.

Midfielder Michael Reda made the visitors' task easier when he missed a penalty just before halftime.

Diomis awarded Wollongong a spot kick after a defender handled in a crowded goalmouth but Reda fired the shot to the right of his target.

It was a crucial point of the game and Reda was replaced by Jason Connelly after halftime.

Wollongong penned South Melbourne in their half after the interval but a Neil Harlock goal was all they had to show for their domination.

The Kiwi international was on the end of a cross from replacement Lupcho Naumovski in the 58th minute



Paul Trimboli: Man of the match performance and scorer of opening goal of match.

and beat goalkeeper Michael Petkovic with an angled drive.

With 11 players on the field, South Melbourne had looked impressive, breaking quickly from the back with Vaughan Coveny looking very

sharp.

Their goal came after 16 minutes, Ivan Kelic providing the final pass for Trimboli to beat goalkeeper Brett Hughes with a powerful header.

Moved forward from

Wolves: Hughes, Cecolli, Van Egmond, Horsley, Sevin, Reda (Connelly 45), Perinich, Harlock, Joseski (Naumovski 55), Lloyd, Surjan.

☆☆☆

Lakers: Petkovic, Orlic, Kuzmanovic, Polak (Clarkson 71), Panopoulos, Coveny, Trimboli, Spink (Anthopoulos 31), Iosifidis, Kelic (Altsopp 85), De Amicis.

Referee: Diomis. **Crowd:** 2,905. **Goals:** Wolves - Harlock (58), Lakers - Trimboli (16).

Yellow cards: Wolves - Lloyd (11), Reda (35), Sevin (62), Cecolli (65); Lakers - Iosifidis (2), Petkovic (22), Coveny (24), De Amicis (47), Anthopoulos (88).

Red cards: Lakers - Orlic (30). **POY:** 3-Trimboli (Lakers), 2-Horsley (Wolves), 1-Lloyd (Wolves).

Kuzmanovic organised things at the back.

For Wollongong, Matt Horsley, Lloyd and Alvin Cecolli stood out.

☆☆☆

VISITORS FORCE DRAW BUT REMAIN BOTTOM

Newcastle Breakers 2

By DANE SKAFTE

Canberra Cosmos 2

Newcastle Topper Breakers played their third consecutive draw in just over a week after their 2-2 result against Canberra Cosmos last Friday night at the Breakers Stadium.

The Breakers had a night of missed opportunities with several scoring chances going begging and inexperience showing in the young Newcastle side. The visitors opened the scoring midway through the first half when Canberra striker Peter Buljan beat several Newcastle defenders and guided an accurate low drive from fifteen metres out despite a desperate attempt by defender Todd McManus.

Newcastle levelled the score in the 33rd minute after some good build up work by Jason Bennett. The Breaker

knocked a ball for Troy Halpin, who outplayed the Cosmos defence as he rounded the Canberra keeper and drove the ball into the net from the sharpest of angles.

Thirty seconds after the half time break Newcastle found an immediate result after Glenn Sprod chipped a curling ball over the keeper to give his side a 2-1 lead which shattered the Canberra defence. The visitors created a golden opportunity in the 49th minute after a cross from the right by Steve Lazzari found James Baxter on the back post but his shot went wide.

Newcastle continued to push forward and started to attack the Canberra defence when young Clayton Zane passed the ball to Bennett but his powerful header hit the upright from fifteen metres out.

With twenty minutes left



Canberra levelled the scores after some good build up work by former Newcastle player John Koch who drove the ball home from the edge of six metre area.

Newcastle continued to look for the winning goal when Harry James replaced Bennett with 10 minutes of the match remaining. James made an immediate impact on the game and was unlucky not to have scored on three occasions.



Troy Halpin: His aggressive style earned him the Man of the Match award.

Newcastle: Baker, Price, Sprod, Ironside, Thomas, Zane (Lowe 67), Halpin, McManus, Bennett (James 76), Austin, Sharpley.

Canberra Cosmos: Giannasca, Dee, Watson, Wade, Kelly, Wilson, Buljan, Baxter, Lazzari (Reis 70), Koch, Mazis. **Scorers:** Breakers - Halpin (33), Sprod (46), Cosmos - Buljan (18), Koch (68).

Yellow cards: Canberra - Koch 41. **Referee:** D. Crawford. **Crowd:** 3,107 approx. **POY:** 3-Halpin (Newcastle), 2-James (Newcastle), 1-Wade (Canberra).

STRIKERS PAY HIGH PRICE FOR VICTORY

Brisbane Strikers 2

By GLENN DAVIS

Melbourne Knights 1

Brisbane Strikers may have paid a high price for their last minute 2-1 win over reigning champions Melbourne Knights at Suncorp Stadium on Saturday night, with player-coach Frank Farina to undergo x-rays for a possible fractured jaw.

Farina was felled in the 59th minutes in a sickening clash with Knights' skipper Andrew Marth, which resulted in Perth referee Eddie Lennie giving the rugged Knights defender his marching orders.

Marth, sent off for an alleged elbow to Farina's face, was the first of three players Lennie dismissed in an explosive second half after both sides were locked 1-1 all half time.

Brisbane youngster Wayne Knipe, who replaced striker Rod Brown with eight minutes remaining, struck home the

winner in the 89th minute, just as a weary nine-man Knights' outfit appeared set to share the spoils.

Farina earlier had stamped his mark on the match with a brilliant header for the game's opening goal, leaping above Knights' defender Ransford Banini to finish off a brilliant solo run by teenage sensation Kasey Wehrman.

Wehrman, who with Soccerroo Sean Cranney ripped the Knight's defence apart, surged past three players before firing in a perfect cross to the far post for Farina to score.

The Strikers' lead was only short lived with the Knights grabbing the equaliser ten minutes later through nippy midfielder Tom Pondeljak.

Pondeljak made a searching run from 30 metres into the box leaving behind Strikers midfielder Gary Phillips

before coolly slotting the ball under Strikers' keeper Clint Bolton.

The first half was played at a furious pace and easily was one of the best spectacles seen at Suncorp Stadium.

However, it paled into comparison with the second half controversy which erupted with Marth's send off.

Five minutes after Marth went, the Knights found themselves down to nine men when Ivan Duzel was sent off for allegedly kneeling Strikers' midfielder Gary Phillips in the back after he was felled in a tackle.

The visitors, who were playing their third game in six days, gained some compensation for their two dismissals when Lennie showed Strikers' midfielder Andrew Brayshaw the red card on 79 minutes for an alleged headbutt on Knights'



Tom Pondeljak: Levelled the scores for Knights in 40th minute.

Brisbane Strikers: Bolton, Gwynne, Hunter, Phillips, Farina (Becirbegovic 62), S Cranney, T Cranney, Brown (Knipe 82), Battistin, Brayshaw, Wehrman.

Melbourne Knights: Knezevic, Cervinski, Marth, Simunic, Lapsansky, J Markovski, Kutlesovski (Z Markovski 60), Vojtek (Tsitsakis 25), T Pondeljak (Tropkovic 85), Duzel, Banini.

substitute Zoran Markovski.

The 5,000 plus crowd sensed a draw was on the cards at this point with the Knights battling bravely against the odds, until assistant coach Peter Tokesi made his telling substitution of Knipe for a weary Rod Brown.

Farina said afterwards it

Scorers: Strikers - Farina (30), Knipe (89); Knights - Pondeljak (40).

Yellow Cards: Strikers - Hunter (64), Wehrman (41); Knights: Duzel (26), Tsitsakis (45).

Red Cards: Strikers - Brayshaw (79), Knights - Marth (59), Duzel (64).

Crowd: 5,075. **Referee:** E Lennie. **POY:** 3-Wehrman (Strikers), 2-S Cranney (Strikers), 1-J Pondeljak (Knights).

was sometimes harder to play nine men than a full team of eleven players, but believed the Strikers should have had the match sewn up much earlier.

☆☆☆

ERICSSON CUP

MATCH REPORTS

POPOVIC'S TWO PENALTIES LIFT SYDNEY UTD TO TOP OF LADDER

Sydney United 2

2

By JOHN ECONOMOS

Sydney United inspired by two second half penalties scored by elegant skipper and lateral defender Tony Popovic, lifted to a thrilling 2-1 victory over UTS Olympic last Sunday night at the Croatian Sports Centre in front of an excellent crowd of 11,381. The Pumas went into the Ericsson Cup lead stepping over Brisbane.

The very well balanced Sydney United yet again displayed great discipline, unity, flair and intelligent strategies, but Olympic's courageous goalkeeper George Bouhoutsos, plus some excellent tackling by Olympic's twin-centre-backs David Barrett and Adam Ciantar, defiantly denied the home side a heavier victory.

Despite numerous goal-chances at both ends, first blood was not drawn until the 59th minute when referee Simon Micallef awarded United a penalty. He ruled that Olympic's right defender, Ralph Bove had fouled David

Zdrilic well inside the box. United's captain, Popovic easily beat Bouhoutsos with a rising drive high and just under the horizontal.

As early as the fourth minute United had Olympic under pressure when lanky midfielder Paul Bilokapic sprayed wide to an unmarked Ante Milicic who blasted well on target. It took a brilliant block by Bouhoutsos to prevent a goal.

Olympic hit back in the 16th minute when substitute left midfielder Elias Augerinos rocketed a 25 metre drive that skimmed the crossbar but four minutes later Popovic combined with the intelligent linkman Kresimir Marusic to set up Milicic on the far side for a shot. Although well-balanced, Milicic shaved the base of Olympic's right post from 15 metres.

On the half hour mark Norm Tome split United's defence with a great flat through-ball for Kris

Trajanovski, but the latter's final shot was well blocked by Kalac.

A minute later United recoiled at the other end when Bilokapic met a cross from the right and volleyed on target, only to see Ciantar head over his own cross-bar.

Four minutes before the break Tome latched onto a through-ball from a combination involving Augerinos and Trajanovski, but the striker's hot drive was brilliantly saved by a fully stretched Kalac.

United came again early in the second half through Marusic, but the import's hot blast flew straight into Bouhoutsos' grateful gloves.

Two minutes later Olympic raided when Tome released Trajanovski up the left flank. He was caught by a great covering tackle by Babic, with Bove standing completely unmarked in support at the far post.

Desperate for an equaliser in the 65th minute Tome sent

away substitute George Sorras with fresh legs racing up the left flank. Sorras with a well timed chip, over the advancing Kalac, hit the target to lock up the scoreline.

Three minutes later Milicic almost scored when set up with a flick-on by Zdrilic. But a fantastic one handed effort by Bouhoutsos denied Milicic and the Pumas a second goal.

Eight minutes from the bell substitute Damir Cvetko broke away into Olympic's box at top pace where he was reluctantly fouled by Ciantar for Popovic to be presented with a second penalty. This time Popovic rifled his drive hard and low to hit the bottom left corner of the target.

United's boss Branko Culina was humble as well as critical with his victory stating, "We came down the right side far too much in the first half and wasted too many chances in this period, but having said this we have now beaten last season's first, second and third placegetters

Sydney United: Kalac; Bobic, Kupresak, Popovic; Trajkovski, Enes; Bilokapic, Moric; Zdrilic, Marusic (Cvetko 66); Milicic (J. Culina 84).

UTS Olympic: Bouhoutsos; Bove, Ciantar, Barrett; Ardane, (Sorras 60) Tsenis, Meredith (Augerinos 10); Trajanovski, Tome, Edwards (Saad 77), Blagojevic. **Scorers:** United: Popovic (59, 82 pens). Olympic: Sorras (65). **Yellow Cards:** United: Bilokapic (38), Kalac (65), Moric (80). Olympic: Tsenis (22), Augerinos (74), Ciantar (82), Bouhoutsos (88). **Referee:** S. Micallef. **Crowd:** 11,381. **P.O.Y.:** 3-Kupresak (SU), 2-Bouhoutsos (OU), 1-Popovic (SU).

UTS Olympic 1

1

which I find quite pleasing. I think now maybe we are on the right track even though Olympic was able to pick up midway through the second half.

"We have now scored 14 goals in our last five games. Olympic are a good side and were unbeaten till tonight. I honestly believe, and my players believe, we can still

improve another 30% or so". David Ratcliffe on the other hand refused to accept defeat stating, "Players should decide the game not match officials. The way we lost is what bothers me and a penalty should be a dead set penalty. Their 'keeper had a good game."

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U13 NOV 6, 12, 22, 28 — 6PM START
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U14 NOV 7, 13, 19, 29 — 6PM START
COACH: M. SHRIMPTON

U15 NOV 8, 14, 20, 26 — 7PM START
COACH: G. DUNLOP

U16 NOV 5, 15, 21, 27 — 6PM START
COACH: G. WATKINS

JUNIOR LEAGUE Trials are being held at:—

U11 NOV 7, 13, 21, 27 — 6PM START
COACH: J. BOTTALICO

U12 NOV 6, 14, 20, 28 — 6PM START
COACH: D. KERMOND

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LACKLUSTRE MATCH TO MARCONI

Adelaide City 0

By LANCE LIBRANDI

Marconi 1

1

The traditional high quality clash at Hindmarsh on Sunday resulted in a 1-0 win for Marconi over Adelaide City.

Both sides had plenty of the ball early on, with the first real chance falling to the Stallions in the 7th minute. A seemingly routine corner-kick by Brad Maloney floated over the Zebras defence and was nodded in by Andy Harper with practically a free header, about two metres from the goal-line. The usually reliable City defence were caught napping, and Jason Petkovic in goal seemed to misjudge the cross completely.

City midfielder Dino Mennillo took a free-kick in

the 17th minute after Dominic Longo fouled Musitano, but his hard, low shot was stopped by keeper Bobby Catlin. The Stallions had another great chance in the 23rd minute, with Francis Awaritefe beating last defender Mark Yates, and running on to goal with only Petkovic in the way. His low shot lacked power however, and Petkovic pushed it into the side netting.

Adelaide City again had a free kick close to goal in the 32nd minute. The lay-off to John Gibson was pounded at the Marconi keeper from just outside the penalty area, but Catlin was in the right place to save. Awaritefe was the culprit a second time in the first half when, in the 37th

minute, he received a cross from Renand. He controlled the ball well and eluded the defence, before firing straight at Petkovic from close range. The in-form keeper's touch putting the shot over the crossbar and denying Marconi an almost certain second goal.

Just minutes before half-time, Harper was set up on the left side by a Matthew Bingley through ball, but skied his shot over the bar from the edge of the goal area. Brad Armour also placed a strike over the goals in the closing stages, before the half-time whistle brought an enthralling first period to a close. The break saw the Zebras make their first substitution, with Mark Brazzale coming on for a

tiring Michael Brooks. This sparked a revival of sorts, with City taking the initiative and having most of the play in the first ten minutes. Musitano's close-range shot found Catlin 2 minutes in, and Mennillo and Yates had long-range shots. Marconi were reduced to a series of hopeful long crosses at goal, which Petkovic was having no trouble with. Then, the game slid into oblivion. Marconi moved players into the backline to secure the lead, and from the 60 minute mark, the play dissolved into aerial ping-pong around the middle of the park. Musitano ran out of legs and was substituted, as were Awaritefe and Yates.

Adelaide City: Petkovic; Armour, Yates (Dodd 70), Ivanovic, Tobin, Costanzo, Hassell, Mennillo, Gibson, Musitano (Barbato 57), Brooks (Brazzale 45). **Marconi:** Catlin, De Marigny, Bingley, Casserly, Harper, Foster, Maloney, Longo, Awaritefe (Babic 67), Souris, Renand. **Scorer:** Marconi - Harper (7). **Yellow cards:** Adelaide City - Costanzo (85). **Referee:** B. Hugo. **Crowd:** 4,112. **P.O.Y.:** 3-De Marigny (MF), 2-Ivanovic (AC), 1-Harper (MF).

NEW TEAMS GO SCORELESS

Collingwood 0

By DWYGH TUFFNELL

Perth Glory 0

0

The meeting between the Ericsson Cups two newest clubs produced an unimaginative scoreless draw at Victoria Park on Sunday.

Collingwood, sitting in the top six, were predictable in their play and had Perth taken a couple of guilt edge chances, they wouldn't even have gained one point.

The Warriors desperately missed Socorro, Goran Lozanovski, and were exposed for the lack of depth with only two players on the substitutes bench, one of them reserve goalkeeper, Dean Anastasiadis.

Collingwood will be without the services of Lozanovski for five weeks after a third test on his ankle last week revealed a hairline fracture.

"Missing Goran leaves a big hole, we understand that, everyone understands that", said coach Zoran Matic.

Perth had the better of what little chances were created by both sides with Bobby Despotovski and Paul Strudwick in the last minute missing opportunities to give Glory a priceless away win.

Despotovski only had Warriors' keeper Frank Juric to beat after being sent clear by Gavin Wilkinson, but the Olyroo managed to divert his shot past the post.

Juric was beaten in the 89th minute after Gareth Naven had crossed for Strudwick who rolled the ball past Juric but also just wide of the upright.

The away side also had good claims for a penalty when Wilkinson had been

bundled over in the area by Ernie Tapai.

"If that wasn't a penalty, I'll eat my hat," Glory coach Gary Marocchi said on the incident.

"The bloke (Wilkinson) was clean through and he ended up on the seat of his pants."

Collingwood also missed a good chance to break the deadlock in the 62nd minute.

George Jolovski's floated cross was fumbled by Tom Maras and Kimon Taliadoros collected the loose ball and found Andy Vlahos.

With an open goal beckoning, Vlahos blasted the ball high over the bar.

Perth were good value for their point, with a strong defence and the nullifying of Tapai by Kiwi Wilkinson a factor in the Warriors lack of

creativity.

"Gavin hasn't really been firing for us and we gave him the job on Tapai and he kept Tapai quiet. He was never in the game", Marocchi said.

The duel between Jolovski and Despotovski was one of the highlights in an otherwise drab game.

The Perth striker was at the centre of a tangle between the two clubs in the pre-season and was expected to play for Warriors after finishing his winter commitments with Heidelberg United.

Whilst Despotovski was working hard for Perth, Jolovski was probably Collingwood's most dangerous player with Tapai kept quiet and Con Boutisanis having an off game.

"I thought we had three more chances than they did,

but if you don't take your chances then you don't win the game", a satisfied Marocchi said.

Warriors: Juric; Karapatsos (MacNicol 79), Jolevski, Fak, Waddell, Boutisanis, Talladira, Cerrachio, Tapai, Vlahos, Taliadoros.

Glory: Maras, C Naven, Wilkinson, Buljubasic, G Naven, Miller, McVittie, Strudwick, Despotovski, Ithier, Wingell. **Yellow Cards:** Warriors - Karapatsos (65). **Referee:** W Dade. **Crowd:** 5,504. **P.O.Y.:** 3-G Naven (Glory), 2-Jolovski (Warriors), 1-Despotovski (Glory).

Adelaide is loyal

Dear Sir,
If I was allowed to decide between Adelaide or Canberra for the right to hold the remaining 2000 Olympic Group soccer matches Adelaide would win hands down.
Firstly because Hindmarsh Stadium will by then be upgraded to a world class ground which will be of lasting benefit to Soccer in SA, as the World Game will be its only user.
Secondly over the last twenty years the Adelaide public have proved to be good and loyal supporters of Soccer (by Australian standards). In these times of severe economic stress with Adelaide particularly hard hit, it would be a nice gesture for Soccer to repay the Adelaide people for this ongoing support by awarding them the group and all the economic benefits that come with it.
Conversely Canberrans

have consistently shown they have little interest in Soccer other than as a recreational game.
The Cosmos struggle to survive with no guarantee they will be around until the 2000 Olympics.
If Canberra is awarded the group and Bruce Stadium is upgraded the only certain beneficiary will be the Canberra Raiders RL club which is the only reason why they and ACT Union are so keen for Canberra to win.
RL and Union in the ACT have never done a thing to help Soccer. Give me one good reason why Soccer should help them achieve their dream stadium riding on the back of the Olympic Football tournament? The only good outcome for Soccer is for Adelaide to win and the final choice will be a good test of the brains trust at SA.
R. Melor
BONDI, NSW.

ROCKDALE CITY SUNS DEFENCE

Dear Sir,
In reply to a letter from T. Goulding in your issue of 29th October 1996 I would like to give readers some facts about the Rockdale City Suns soccer Club.
Rockdale City Suns is one of the clubs relegated from the NSW Super League for 1997 despite meeting most criteria and being financial at the time of the decision unlike several clubs who were accepted and still owe the Federation money. The club, contrary to some reports, is financially viable having met its commitments and being in a strong position for the future. The club is one of the few that has a large supporter base, unlike some neighbouring clubs, and has the support of the Rockdale City Council and many businesses in the area. Rockdale also has their own ground and clubhouse that bring the club's assets at over two million dollars.
As to paying their coach incorrectly reported amounts

of money the club has shown its commitment to players and supporters by bringing in a high profile coach who brings to the club a high level of professionalism and profile while also developing many promising youngsters during the year signalling a strong future for the club. The club's investment is reaping rewards already.
Mr Goulding and others should note that a successful club of previous decades, namely St George in the late 60s and early 70s employed full-time coaches at great expense; coaches named Frank Arok and incidentally Rale Rasic. Maybe we need to look at clubs of the future like Rockdale rather than clubs who have had their time and have little to offer the future of Soccer. After all the aim of all clubs is to attract crowds and this must be a major prerequisite and some clubs need to look seriously at what they have to offer.
Mendo Cklamovski,
PANANIA, NSW.

High profile Coach

Dear Sir,
I am surprised to find out that SBS conducted a poll about a new Soccer coach for the Socceroos gave so much support to local coaches.
In essence that is fine. But let's get a high profile person. Someone who likes attacking football. As some of the readers suggested, we do have already fine players, they should be nurtured and

coached properly by someone who has flair and an eye for good football and scoring goals.
For instance Johan Cruyff, or Ron Atkinson who has a knowledge of our players, flair and attacking football. Surely these are people in south America or Europe we can entice to come here.
Gerry van Duuren,
WESTMEAD, NSW.



Letters to the Editor

Have your say on any soccer issue in the world. Preference will be given to short letters. Include daytime phone number for verification.



The Editor,
AUSTRALIAN &
BRITISH SOCCER
WEEKLY
PO BOX 155,
MARRICKVILLE
NSW 2204
Fax: (02) 9550-9332

Short letters of about 400 words will be given preference in this column.

The opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily reflect those of this newspaper

Jones's Reply

Dear Sir,
After 3 years of writing for this paper I am told I do not have any knowledge of our wonderful game. I am no demi god and do not get paid for writing, I do it for fun.
I acknowledge that I do not know everything about football and no one does.
I made an error based on information that I thought was correct regarding Mr Dooley (BBC interview 1995) — thank you for correcting me.
The point stands that on that day there was a player born in Australia playing for North End. Based on the interview I thought it had been a clash with him.
Fair cop I should have checked that fact. If you'd like to get in touch through



STUART JONES

the paper some time I'd love to do an article about Mr Dooley and your talk with him for he is certainly a great man and from the number of goals he scored he was going to be one of the "greats" until tragedy struck.
Anthony Carbone he had been with Forest so they can be mentioned as a club that have had involvement with Australian players in the past. Mr Carbone's move I did not know so thanks for telling us.
We at UKSSD aim to

give pleasure to football fans. Anyone who knows us is aware that we are out to have fun and put a smile on football fans faces.
In the end we are just fans ourselves and not above anyone else unlike some other so called experts in this country. Thanks for the constructive criticism as it builds a better writer, I hope. I apologise for making mistakes but the best do that, let alone amateurs like me. Sorry readers but I will probably make mistakes in the future too.
I should have double checked the facts with someone who knows everything about world football there is to know, but who is this mighty one?
Stuart Jones,
Writer for ABSW.

RALLY ROUND RASIC

Dear Sir,
In recent issues "mad Micky" and his mate, Mrs Jones's little boy, Stuart have made comments about the 'valuable contribution' Eddie Thomson has made to Australian Soccer and development of our talent.
The 1974 World Cup Socceroos scored 31 goals in the elimination and warm up games. How many did Thommos tactics produce in the last six years in charge?
The '74 boys were big hearted amateurs. Thomson, with the equivalent of about 10 teams playing overseas in professional leagues, has failed to exploit the talent available. As assistant coach from 1983 and national coach from June 1990, he had more than a fair go.
In an article about Thomson's unprecedented involvement in player transfers in sports magazine "Inside Sport" (June 1994), entitled "Eddie Thomson's Wrong Moves" he was taken to task for his departure from established practice in Europe and South America and allegations that his role in those transfers may have violated accepted conventions

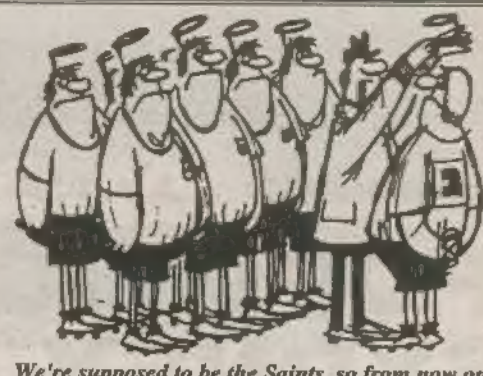
of his post.
The article pointed out that the time of his original appointment Thomson said that he should be sacked if Australia was absent from the World Cup in 1994.
In an interview later, (again with 'The Australian') Thomson was reported as saying: "If I don't do it (qualify) then I'm a failure."
That is the harsh reality of football these days. I won't deserve to have another four years.
But what happened? Even before a ball had been kicked in our 1994 World Cup campaign he was given a renewed four year contract.
Some cynics have voiced the opinion that the timing of the renewal effectively silenced any players or potential players from volunteering to appear at the Senate inquiry.
So, did the National Team get a fair go in the years since qualifying for 1974 World Cup?
The collection of poor performing coaches did little to enhance our international rating in the intervening period despite the amazing improvement in local player

standards.
Credit for the improvement surely must go to the players and their club coaches and not to a national coach whose involvement in basic skill development would be incidental.
Soccer's future in Australia is in the hands of David Hill and his Commissioners. Success in World Cup Qualification will enable soccer to compete with the other highly promoted football codes, basketball and baseball. Failure will leave us struggling and push full professionalism further out of reach.
Several good coaches have been suggested, for the top job but only one has achieved the success we seek — Rale Rasic.
It took Soccer Australia twenty years to welcome the 1974 team home and award them a moment of their achievement last year.
The public adore success. Sponsors insist on success. One coach has done it. Why does he not deserve another go?
George Green,
ALSTONVILLE, NSW.

Congratulations on move

Dear Sir,
The word "discrimination" is quoted and used rather freely nowadays, therefore I would like to congratulate the ABSW editors for shifting the Croatian Corner where it belongs, together with other nations news.

By running an exclusive article on one nation could have resulted in your newspaper being accused of bias.
Ron Novello,
LITTLE BAY, NSW.



We're supposed to be the Saints, so from now on we'll wear these.

Logo confusion

Dear Sir,
You should be aware of the fact that in the off-season there was a big boo-ha involving two club logos, those of Marconi Fairfield and Sydney United. The result of this meant that both clubs were forced to change their logos.
We are now more than four weeks into the season and you don't seem to be aware of these changes as you still print the old logos.
Get your act together please.
Editors Note: The new 'approved' logos are for team shirts only. The Clubs exercise their right to retain whatever badge (logo) they wish for their 'official' correspondence, advertising etc.
Daniel Bond,
LEICHHARDT, NSW.

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WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

By HENRY WIZGIER

Is The World Game Just Too Big and Confusing For 'Mainstream' Australians?

Here is an interesting theory: Many 'Mainstream' Australians are not so much put off Soccer because of lack of goals, but by its sheer size and complexity in the world, which is exacerbated by the national media's inability to explain things properly.

In any sport, you go straight to the very top to see the best. But, where exactly is the very peak of club Soccer?

In Aussie rules and rugby league it's right here in Australia. Most people in our two great metropolises live near a 'world-class' Aussie rules or rugby league club, where they can see the best players in the world and the structure is easy to understand because there is only one competition that really matters.

The first things a newcomer to Soccer learns is that the very best, is somewhere on the other side of the world. But where exactly?

Nowadays he or she can get the top-drawer stuff piped into the home via Free-To-Air (SBS & ABC) or Satellite. So, supposing Mr. Mainstream decides to give Soccer a go and picks out a game at random which turns out to be a dour 1-1 draw between two European teams. On top of that, it's only half a game, or 'first-leg' as it's called in Soccer - something totally

unheard of in other football codes where all matches are settled within normal time of a single game. He, is going to have to wait another two weeks before he finds out who, has won. He's not impressed because there were very few goals, it was not much of a spectacle and probably, he didn't even understand what the hell they were playing for anyway. Something called a European Cup Winners Cup he was told - and that's it! No explanation of what a European Cup Winners Cup is.

Deciding to give it another try, English Premier League soccer comes on and it's great. It's fast, entertaining and there's heaps of goals. Manchester United as they often do, put on a good show so 'Mainstream' decides to follow them, particularly as he heard the commentator mention at least a dozen times that this is the 'best league in the world'. What's more Man. Utd are the 'champions' of the 'best league in the world' so they've got to be 'the best team in the world'. Now, it's beginning to make sense, and he can't wait to see their next match in the European Champions League.

But alas, the champions of the 'best league in the world' lose at home to a Turkish club in another dour, affair.

Confused again, 'Mr Mainstream' has also noticed that Scottish football gets a good coverage in the daily

papers as well as the satellite channels, so that too has got to be of a very high world standard. Again it's fast, entertaining and heaps of goals particularly from Rangers who hammer their opponents every weekend. It's almost like watching rugby league! Great, 'Mr. Mainstream Aussie' decides to follow Rangers. They too are in the European Champions League.

However, the 'Gers' get hammered themselves by an Italian club and in fact they look more like the sort of teams that they regularly wallop in the Scottish league. So, why do they get so much coverage in the media?

The reason it's confusing is because the media here makes it confusing. The bulk of newspaper media coverage concentrates on English and Scottish football and not just the Premier leagues either. We get results from Divisions One, Two and Three and sometimes even for God's sake - The Vauxhall Conference League. In the Aussie Daily's sports coverage which most Mainstream Aussie read, it's easier to find out how Arbroath got on than the World Club Champions Ajax.

If Mr. Mainstream is still interested, he will begin to suspect that despite their low coverage, the 'best' European leagues, are 'officially' in Italy, Germany, Spain, France and Holland.

This, is an 'official fact', until English clubs can prove otherwise, by winning the European Cup and the UEFA Cup (which they haven't done since 1984).

In sport opinions are verified only by 'hard facts' and now, here comes another baffler. If Mr. Mainstream thinks he has tracked the very pinnacle of soccer to the European mainland, the Toyota Cup will really throw the spanner into the works. He will be told quite casually that this match which is played in Tokyo and which he's never even heard of, is the official 'club championship of the world'. This then is the real 'Superbowl' and 'Grand Final' of world club soccer. Then why has he never even heard of the South American club involved, either? Why is he informed regularly of Raith Rovers and Rochdale's performances but never told about River Plate? Of the 34 Toyota Cup Finals since 1960 the South American Champions have won 20 to Europe's 14. (On top of that Mr. M learned recently that South American countries have also won 8 World Cups to Europe's 7).

So, having discovered to his surprise that the best leagues in Europe are to the east of the 'English Channel', it now appears that the best leagues in the world are thousands of kilometers to the west of the continent across the Atlantic Ocean - in South

America, and that's 'official'! But why do the Argentinian and Brazilian Leagues get less coverage than the English and Scottish 3rd Divisions, he wonders?

Of all the replica shirts you see Aussie kids wearing, Manchester United, Liverpool and AC Milan would be about the most popular. Ask any expert here which have been the best club teams in the last twenty years and he would mention Liverpool of the 70's/80's and of course AC Milan of the late 80's/early 90's.

Yet the great Liverpool side of Dalglish & Co. met Zico's Flamengo in the 1981 version of the Toyota Cup and were taken to the cleaners by a 3-0 scoreline which could have been doubled and by one of the finest exhibitions of football seen during the entire eighties. Who, ever mentions Flamengo as a great club? Just three years ago, 'mighty' Milan who had hammered Barcelona in the European Cup Final were put in their place by another brilliant exhibition of slick, attacking football from another Brazilian and South American Club Champion, Sao Paulo who won more easily than the 3-2 scoreline suggests. How many Aussie kids do you see wearing Flamengo or Sao Paulo shirts?

Which is the greatest football club in the world? Ask Australian soccer fans and the most common replies

will of course be between Manchester United, Liverpool and Milan. Yet, no English club has ever even won the World Club Championship whereas Milan's record three wins, is equalled by two Uruguayan clubs, Penarol and Nacional! They, would be totally unknown to Mainstream Aussies!

Now we come to what must appear to be the most baffling of all football matches - the FA Cup Final. Would I be exaggerating in saying that this match gets the second biggest TV and press coverage after the World Cup Final itself? Yet, it doesn't prove anything although 'Mainstreamers' could be forgiven for thinking that this, is England's answer to the 'Grand Finals' of Aussie rules and rugby league. Perhaps it could be made believable when a Manchester United wins it each season, but what about when another Coventry City or Wimbledon take the FA Cup as they are due to do any year now, according to the law of averages? How do you explain then to a 'Mainstreamer' that the Aussie media have worked themselves up all week over a meaningless match which was won by a mediocre team from the English Premier League that wouldn't even make the top 100 in Europe never mind the world?

It's hard enough remembering what all the club competitions are all about.

Now next year - we are going to have a Club Confederations Cup for ALL the Continental Club Champions - including Oceania.

And that - is only half of it because we haven't even touched on the International Competitions. The World Cup, European Championships, Copa America, Confederations Cup, The Olympic Games Football Championships...etc. etc. etc.

Has anyone in Australia ever thought that it could be the very success and enormity of our game abroad that's turning people here away from it - all because the mass-media can't be bothered to explain to it's readers what it's all about?



SHARKS TOO GOOD FOR FALCONS

Gippsland Falcons 1

West Adelaide won their second away game of the Ericsson Cup season by beating Gippsland Falcons 2-1 here tonight but the performance failed to please coach Adrian Santrac.

Goalpoacher extraordinaire Jim Tsekis scored a goal in each half before Nick Palamaras snatched a consolation for the Falcons in injury time.

"I'll take the three points any time, but I've got to look at the bigger picture and today we did very little with the football - there was nobody out there willing to put his foot on the ball and we found it hard to string two or three passes together," Santrac said. Gippsland don't allow you to play and most sides will find it hard down here, but I expected us to play better as a unit."

The Sharks took the lead in the 27th minute in a corner kick situation. Nathan Day curled the ball into the box, keeper Jim Kouris managed to punch the ball away but Hamilton Thorp flicked it back into the box and Tsekis nipped in to tuck the

ball away in a crowded goal.

West Adelaide could have added to the score in the last minute of the first half when Pablo Cordozo broke clear with the Falcons' defence claiming offside but with only the keeper to beat, he hit his shot into the side netting from the right side of the box.

The Falcons regrouped after the break and should have levelled in the first minute of the second half but substitute Carlo Villani shot straight at the keeper with his first touch of the ball after running onto a good through pass.

The game virtually finished as a contest with West Adelaide's second goal in the 59th minute.

Falcons sweeper Palamaras was caught in possession and Tsekis swooped to steal the ball. The Sharks attacker rounded the struggling defender and slotted the ball into the back of the net.

Gippsland reacted with Claudio Canosa getting on the end of a corner to head against the bar and a Mark Foy shot was blocked in the



64th minute.

West Adelaide continued to create chances and in the 87th minute substitute Andrew Borghetto broke free but was unlucky when his shot hit the foot of the post.

A minute later Palamaras made a goal line clearance from an Alex Castro header.

The Falcons finally gained some consolation when two minutes into injury time, Palamaras smashed the ball home in a goalmouth scramble following a corner kick.

Falcons coach Frank Arok remained defiant in defeat.



Jim Tsekis: Goal poacher doubled his tally

"We created enough chances in the second half to win two games."

Arok said. "I'm disappointed for the supporters who come to see wins, but we have to stay positive - there has not been one side which has outclassed us as yet."



West Adelaide 2

Gippsland: Kouris, Marcina, Canoas, Stergiopoulos, Palamaras, Krncevic, Duric (Foy 63), Bell, Wright, Hastie (Gotis 83), Tricarico (Villani 56).



West Adelaide: Harkness, Thorp, Perin, Slager, Hooker, Alagich, Castro, Cardozo (Borghetto 77), Milosevic, Day, Tsekis. Yellow cards: Falcons - Krncevic (26), Sharks - Slager (15), Castro (32), Milosevic (68). Scorers: Falcons - Palamaras (89), Sharks - Tsekis (28, 59). Referee: M Shield. Crowd: 2,480. POY: 3-Tsekis (WA) 2-Palamaras (MF) 1-Day (WA).

VICTORIAN SOCCER

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Require Senior Coach

Contact in writing

The Secretary,
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AROUND THE CLUBS

HORSLEY'S GOAL DROUGHT ENDS

By PHILL MURPHY

Matt Horsley was as surprised as his teammates when he was joint leading goalscorer in the Ericsson Cup after four rounds. Four goals in four games seemed hard to believe.

After all, Horsley failed to find the net in 33 rounds last season. And didn't those same teammates rib him about it?

The Wolves skipper, who really knows how to celebrate a goal, was a handy marksman during two seasons on loan with Cringila. Playing striker, he was the team's leading scorer.

However, goals have been few and far between in the national league.

"I don't really know how it has happened," Horsley said when asked about the sudden goal rush.

"I am playing down the right side with defensive duties to attend to but I have still been able to get forward enough to get my goals.

"Overall, I think I am playing better than I did last season. That has obviously come about because I didn't play at all during the winter months.

"Before that, I had played four years straight without a break and that was starting to take its toll."

Horsley said he felt fresh and couldn't wait to get back into pre-season training. He had been disappointed that he wasn't allowed to go out on

loan to a local club because it had cost him money.

"Now I have had time to reflect on things, it was probably good for me that I had a rest and was able to do things away from soccer," Horsley said. "Hopefully, I can contribute to the team finishing in the top six."

Horsley, going into his third season as captain of the Wolves, is getting good vibes.

He said the squad was stronger this time around and there were one or two new players who could really knock the ball around.

"Previously we had relied a lot on commitment," Horsley said. "Now there is that good blend of skill and commitment."

"I really believe we can do very well."

Horsley is the typical story of the local kid who made good. During his schooldays at Balgownie, he was always kicking a ball around. He graduated to playing junior soccer at Balgownie and at 15 was in the first grade side. That season, he was named premier league player of the year. Just 12 months later, he won it again.

Then it was on to the Wolves youth team and he was always going to go that extra step.

David Ratcliffe was coach when Horsley made his national league debut and has always been an admirer of the talented midfielder. It was Ratcliffe who selected Horsley to go away to Korea



Matt Horsley: Local kid, made good.

and China with the NSW squad.

He also gained a run in the Australian training squad to play Colombia. Horsley described that as the highlight of his career.

"It was also a great thrill to be made captain of the

Wollongong team," he said. I am Wollongong through and through.

"To be able to captain my local team in the national league is fantastic. It would be great if I could lead the boys into the playoffs."

Brothers Grimm affect the Wilsons

By DANE SKAFTE

Two of the Newcastle Topper Breakers have been sidelined for the next couple of weeks. Brothers Gary and Mark Wilson have been struck down with illness and injury and could only watch in frustration as the team played the Canberra Cosmos last Friday night at Breakers Stadium.

25 year old talented midfielder Gary, is suffering from a bout of glandular fever which he contracted in June this year. He had only played in the first two games in the Ericsson Cup this season before noticing that he was feeling flat and having no energy on the park.

"Kosmina told me to go and get some tests done and to get myself fully fit," Gary said. "The test showed that I had a low iron deficiency and the specialist put me on a special diet."

Gary has also been advised to do some light training which has included jogging and gym work.

"Hopefully I will be back on the park next week but I will wait and see how I pull up. I am not doing the team any good playing only 50% fit."

The last 12 months have been a nightmare for older brother Gary in which he has overcome both groin and knee injuries.

"When things are not going right you wonder when your luck is going to change," he concluded.

Meanwhile younger brother



Mark Wilson (L) & Gary Wilson: Illness and injury have stopped them in their tracks.

Mark, suffered a strained leg muscle in his left leg playing against Canberra at Bruce Stadium last week.

"The Doctors have told me to keep off my leg and to get physio on it. I would be silly to play and do any more damage," he said.

The 22 year old midfielder has performed well so far this season and has slotted in neatly to the demands of the National League.

"I have been reasonably happy with my own form so far. It is very disappointing for Gary and myself to watch from the sideline," Mark said.

He could not train with the rest of the side last Wednesday, but was happy that the injury happened early on in the Ericsson Cup.

Mark admitted that it will

be hard getting back into the squad once he is fully recovered.

Newcastle Breakers fans who stand behind the goalposts noticed something different last week in the match against Canberra Cosmos. The goal nets have been changed from white to green, after several of the supporters complained about not seeing the ball going into the back of the net.

Breakers Promotions Officer, Shane Johnson said the nets were on their last legs and had to be replaced.

"Several of the visiting goalkeepers had said it was hard to pick up the ball at night. So we changed the colours to keep everybody happy," he ended.

OPPOSITION LEADER and WORLD GAME EXPERT

By LANCE LIBRANDI

Pleasant surprise of last week occurred whilst listening to local radio station 104.7 SAFM on the Austereo network. During the winter months, the Breakfast show did a weekly preview of the weekend's AFL games, with tips and news from Sam Newman.

Now in the summer season, every Friday morning at 8am, there is an Ericsson Cup preview. The local teams games and general information is discussed, along with other news like the Young Socceroos games in South Africa. And who is the guest expert? None other than SA Opposition Leader Mike Rann!

Mr Rann is a leading political figure in South Australia and an ambassador for the World Game. And this is no exercise in political grand-standing - he genuinely knows his Soccer and is

completely up-to-date with his national league knowledge.

It's great to hear the League promoted on a popular music station which reaches many young listeners, and whose Soccer coverage usually only extends to brief scores given on Monday mornings.

Adelaide City and Collingwood Warriors reached an eleventh-hour agreement over the clearance of Goran Lozanovski. The mutual resolution, for an undisclosed sum, avoided the Soccer Australia tribunal hearing set for last Wednesday evening.

Whilst Warriors coach Zoran Matic feels Adelaide made a mistake by not finalising Lozanovski's contract in time, a transfer sum was settled in order to maintain relations between the clubs, which were becoming strained by the long-running dispute.

West Adelaide have

Branko Milosevic returning from a rib-cage injury, and Ross Aloisi, frustratingly sidelined for over a month, making his return through the youth team. His Achilles injury has been tested at training, but Aloisi is short on match fitness, and will need to be able to withstand a full 90 minutes before making his 1996/97 A-League debut.

Another long-term injured player, Michael Musitano, is back on track following a hit-out with the Adelaide City youth team. The former Canberra striker, sidelined since September, scored a goal and, more importantly, lasted the full game. He has pulled up well, and should be pushing for permanent selection, hopefully easing some of the Zebras goal-scoring problems. They are in the unusual position of being goal-less after their first three games.

Alex Tobin has recovered well from a clash in



Branko Milosevic: Recovered from injury.

the game against Melbourne Knights which left him with stitches in a head wound and a knock to his knee. He was substituted for treatment in that match, but is unlikely to miss any further games.

By ALAN TREDINNICK

The news of the meeting of soccer greats with the stated object of making football more entertaining was heartening. At first hearing, that is.

When you hear, though, that their sights seem to be on the relative merits of the three systems of deciding the outcome of drawn games - penalties, the golden goal and the one-on-one shootout - you fell let down. Insuper stuff!

Why couldn't they do a proper analysis of the game's problems and come up with something really radical.

For example, two sets of goalposts at each end of the field.

Stupid, you may think. However, on analysis, you must agree that much of the appeal of the two Rugby codes lies in the fact that players attack a tryline which

stretches across the entire field. Scoring possibilities loom large whenever the attacking side approaches any part of that line. Similarly in Australian Rules. No goalkeeper (if there were one) could stop a ball which passes between the uprights twenty metres above ground level.

The two goals at each end would be placed with their centres one third of the distance in from each sideline. There would be two keepers but one less field player.

One of the intriguing aspects of this innovation is the possibilities it opens up for varying the point of attack. Imagine the defence converging on one goal only to find the attack switched to the other. Imagine, too, the confusion that might arise between the two defending keepers when the attack appears to converge on a point midway between the two, ie. towards the centre

of the byeline.

Twice as many sets of goalposts won't necessarily lead to twice as many goals but there would definitely be an increase.

History shows that many more goals were being scored at the top level forty years ago. Tactically, there has been more attention by coaches to defensive measures in the years since then. And their job has been made easier by the fact that there is only one space 24' x 8' to defend.

Why not give our coaches a new challenge and the crowds more excitement? A hundred years ago football was the most innovative of sports. You might check on the new ideas that came from just one club - Nottingham Forest - towards the end of the nineteenth century. Who knows? We could be leaders in innovation again.



AROUND THE CLUBS



QUEENSLAND PREMIER COACHES IN PLACE

BY GLENN DAVIS

Queensland Fourx League clubs aren't wasting any time appointing coaches for the new look eight team premier league season next year.

Fast on the heels of Taringa Rovers' appointing skipper and former national league player John Ogden as Juan Cutillas' replacement, Wynnum and Beenleigh also have finalised their coaching positions.

Cutillas finished his term at Taringa to take up a three year appointment as the Philippines national coach in Manila.

Beenleigh have appointed Peter Bannon to take over from Steve Dolan who stood down while Wynnum finally have announced highly ranked



Scottish coach George Cowie would be in charge of the Wolves next season.

Bannon was Coach of the Year when North Star took out the Premiership-Grand Final double several years ago before he assisted Bruce Stowell for three seasons as coach of Brisbane Strikers.

Bannon was axed with Stowell by the Strikers at the end of last year's Ericsson Cup season and has returned home to Beenleigh where he coached some years ago.

Cowie, who was due to arrive in Brisbane this week, was expected to coach Wynnum this year but his departure was delayed.

Cowie, 37, a strong defender, played for six years under West Ham's long serving manager John Lyall in the early 80s.

He played for Dundee, Heart of Midlothian and Dunfermline in Scotland and was captain of the Scottish youth side under Andy Roxburgh.

Wynnum President Tony Furphy said injury cut short Cowie's career but he was now back to full fitness and is considering making a playing comeback.

Also rumoured to be back at the helm of Brisbane City is former coach Bobby Hamilton who returned home to Scotland last season after taking the club to premiership honours the previous season.

Rosedale Rovers have appointed former Socceroo Gary McDowall as next year's coach following Kim Wishart's decision not to reapply for the position.



ROBBIE WHEATLEY JOINS THE TEAM

BY BOB BROOKS

We welcome commentator and former Australian international defender Robbie Wheatley to ABSW. He will be writing a regular piece on various aspects of

the World Game. You can expect opinions which are unbiased and at times, a touch controversial.

Robbie is already a well-known figure in Australian Soccer. He played in the National League for Blacktown City Demons,

Marconi and Parramatta Eagles. In 1981 he represented Australia in the World Youth Championships.

In fact he played 17 times at youth level, following up with 5 'A' international caps.

Wheatley appeared in over 300 national soccer league

games.

His expert comments are always welcome on TV, doubtless Wheatley's column will be just as popular in ABSW.

★ ★ ★



Queensland too Strong for PNG

BY JANENE MAR

Queensland's Academy of Sport squad last week took on the visiting international team of Papua New Guinea in two matches at Brisbane's Perry Park.

The home side won convincingly on both Monday and Tuesday. The scores were 6-0 and 7-1. The results were marred by a bad injury in each game. Aussie striker Kim Revell suffered nasty damage to her left ankle which will see her sidelined for five or six weeks. Young Sarah Garven copped a similar fate to her right ankle, putting her out for about a month.

"It was a chance to get the team together, the games were good in that respect," said Coach Greg Brown. "But it wasn't good to come away with injuries, especially with the new competition coming up."

A reasonable crowd was on hand to witness the locals dominate play in all areas, with goals a certainty. Scoring a bagful were Lisa Dunne, Revell, and Alicia Ferguson.

Papua New Guinea spent just four days in Brisbane, and their coach was happy with the match practice. The team



Lisa Dunne: Bagged a hatfull of goals for Queensland's team.

then headed for New Zealand for more preparation, before travelling to Tonga to compete in the Tonga Cup.

"Technically they weren't as good as us, but they were fairly fit," said Brown. "They played a 4-4-2, and put a lot of long balls over the top. A couple of good players up

front caused some problems with their pace, but our defence adapted and handled it quite well."

Presently conducting trials for the Queensland Academy of Sport squad, Brown will have final selections made by the end of the month for the upcoming league.



AROUND THE CLUBS



Olympic on way to future

By DANIEL GONANO

Canterbury-Bankstown Rugby League club and Sydney Olympic Soccer club have recently begun sharing Belmore Sports Ground, and the possibility exists that this mutually beneficial relationship could be further developed.

Mal Clift, a former first grade coach and selector of the Canterbury-Bankstown Rugby League Club has recently retired after some 40 years service with the club.

Barry Nelson, who heads up Canterbury's Board of Directors, Chris Anderson, first grade coach, and the current Chief Executive Officer, Bob Hagan have all been associated with the Canterbury-Bankstown club for decades.

As a result of Canterbury's relationship with ex-players such as the Mortimer brothers, the Hughes brothers and the family of ex-Chief Executive Officer, Peter Moore, his daughter, Lynne is the club's innovative Marketing Manager and developed Canterbury's highly successful multi-cultural days, it has earned the tag "the family club".

The club has a reputation for not only spotting good quality athletes, but also providing these young men with a positive environment in which they can not only develop their rugby league skills but also develop as people, for their life after football.

Since 1980 the first grade Rugby League team has won five premierships and has consistently performed in numerous premiership play-off series.

Needless to say they are also financially stable, and when Rupert Murdoch was targeting Rugby League clubs for his Super League venture, Canterbury was one of the first name's on his list.

Canterbury is synonymous with planning and stability, and currently employs 40 full-time professional Rugby League players and a considerable backroom staff.

Sydney Olympic, on the other hand, suffers from a history of seemingly constant coaching changes, has consistently failed to establish a long term home base, and its planning is stifled by the "hand to mouth" financial nature of the club. For the vast majority of its playing staff, Soccer is part-time employment. It should be noted that many of Olympic's supporters live within or near the Canterbury district.

When Parramatta Eagles were thrown out of the national league many looked at the Eagles home ground, their junior development and their comparative financial stability and argued that David Hill had "shot the wrong horse".

Various reports speculate that Olympic has debts running into the hundreds of thousands of dollars and it appears that Olympic's large spectator base, which runs into the thousands of Soccer loving supporters, was the factor which ultimately led to their remaining in the national league.

Canterbury has recently spent about \$5 million upgrading the stadium at Belmore, which now boasts a seating capacity of 6,500 and some very impressive corporate boxes.

The local council has also come to the party with a million dollar contribution to the development of the playing surface.

Canterbury play 11 home games a year, during the winter months, and Olympic in the summer season will play 13 home games. The benefits to both clubs in developing a year round sporting business are significant and include: economies of scale with regard to the support functions of marketing, media liaison, medical and training facilities and increased income resulting from the year round sponsorship of corporate boxes and ground signage.

Olympic do not currently possess the financial ability to market and promote the club in the district. Therefore a closer relationship with Canterbury will most certainly lead to more emphasis being placed on marketing Olympic, leading to bigger crowds and increased income for the Soccer club from all sources.

Why should Canterbury be interested in joining forces with Olympic? Basically it is very difficult to justify pouring millions of dollars into a sporting facility that will be used for only six months of the year. The facility must generate income all year round. As the AFL clubs Collingwood and Carlton are showing in Melbourne the way forward is to provide supporters with a year round team to support, and with the growth of Soccer in the last 30 years, what better sport to follow than the World Game.

Why is it happening now, why didn't this happen ten years ago? As the Senate Committee Report into Soccer highlighted, the code was in need of a "sea change" and while this has upset a lot of the "old guard", the change in leadership has led to people reassessing the growth potential of Association Football. If Carlton can draw 40,000 people to Optus Oval during the winter and another 20,000 people to watch a Soccer game during the summer, then everybody wins.

Canterbury are currently awaiting a report from accounting firm KPMG on the market potential and implications of running a Soccer section in conjunction with Rugby League.

Their Chief Executive Officer has also recently returned from the UK and the USA, where, amongst others, he visited UCLA in Los Angeles (who have some 600 elite level athletes across many sports), Manchester United (marketing), Crewe Alexandra (junior development), Huddersfield (who currently operate both a rugby league and a soccer team) and the progressive Wolverhampton Wanderers, in order to learn more about the running of a professional soccer club.

Why should Olympic join forces with Canterbury? Such a marriage would provide Olympic with the financial stability that it currently lacks. The possibility would then exist for players to earn a decent income from playing Soccer in Australia and would go a long way to reducing the flow of young Australian players to the lower level professional leagues of Europe and Asia.

Also, with the backbone of the club being its Greek heritage, embodied in the Olympic name and the five Olympic rings, a once in a lifetime marketing opportunity exists that could lead to benefits for the Soccer team running well into the next century.

The opportunity provided by the Sydney Olympic games cannot be realised to their full potential without proper planning and marketing. Skills and expertise which Canterbury do possess, and which Olympic cannot currently afford.

DIVISION 1 FOR WEST WANDERERS

West Wanderers received some good news last week which upset their planning. They had been placed in Division 2 of the NSW Federation for next season. Due to protests and dissatisfaction Divisions 1 and 2 have been redrawn with 16 teams in the higher league as opposed to the 12 originally planned. Trials will take place each Tuesday and Wednesday evenings from 7pm for players wishing to play Division 1



Soccer.

Although West Wanderers will play their home games at Chopin Park, Plumpton the trials are being held at Harold Read Park, Girraween Road, Girraween with under 18's on Tuesdays. Firsts and Under 21's should be there on Wednesdays.

Charles Abdilla on 018 674 922 can answer your questions while training is under last year's coach Vick Mikovski.

AUSSIE PLAYERS AT GOLD CREEK — CANBERRA

By JOHN ECONOMOS

West Wanderers received some good news last week which upset their planning. They had been placed in Division 2 of the NSW Federation for next season. Due to protests and dissatisfaction Divisions 1 and 2 have been redrawn with 16 teams in the higher league as opposed to the 12 originally planned. Trials will take place each Tuesday and Wednesday evenings from 7pm for players wishing to play Division 1 Soccer.

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Read Park, Girraween Road, Girraween with under 18's on Tuesdays. Firsts and Under 21's should be there on Wednesdays.

Charles Abdilla on 018 674 922 can answer your questions while training is under last year's coach Vick Mikovski.

Recently in Canberra when the Australian side was there to prepare for their return leg against Tahiti at the Bruce Stadium, three Aussie internationals took time out from their arduous training sessions to visit the historic homestead of Gold Creek.

Left wingback Robbie Hooker, right-wingback Matthew Bingley, together

with Australia's towering World Cup sweeper Milan Ivanovic, spent a couple of pleasant and relaxing hours at the sheep station.

Ivanovic who had never seen a real boomerang in his life, actually mastered the art. He soon had everyone ducking for cover as he pitched the flying missile with great expertise.

Later all three mingled with some of the first class Merino sheep grazing on the Gold Creek property owned by former Australian World Cup captain and SBS commentator, John Warren.

Seen here caught by our camera are:—



At the Hayshead Gold Creek: (L-R) Matthew Bingley, Milan Ivanovic, Robbie Hooker, farm-hands Lauren and Bev with ABSW's John Economos standing.



Milan Ivanovic and Robbie Hooker holding a Merino with John Economos and Matthew Bingley admiring his fine wool.



ROUND FOUR

**ATTENDANCE FIGURES FOR
ROUND 5**
1995/96 – 22,457
1996/97 – 34,565

as at 10 November 1996

LEADING GOALSCORERS

PLAYER OF THE YEAR POINTS

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WORLD RESULTS & TABLES

England FL Cup Third Round Replay

Oxford 2 Port Vale 0
Oxford at home to Southampton or Lincoln in next round



England Premier League

No matches played

Division 1

Ipswich	1	Southend	1
Oldham	0	Portsmouth	0
West Bromwich	1	Port Vale	1
Huddersfield	3	Bradford	3

Table

Bolton	16	11	4	1	37	20	37
Norwich	16	9	4	3	25	14	31
Crystal Palace	16	8	6	2	36	13	30
Barnsley	15	7	6	2	27	18	27
Wolverhampton	17	7	5	5	22	17	26
Sheffield United	14	7	4	3	29	16	25
Tranmere	17	7	4	6	25	20	25
Swindon	16	7	2	7	24	19	23
Stoke	15	6	5	4	22	26	23
Port Vale	18	5	8	5	17	20	23
Oxford	16	6	4	6	20	13	22
Queens Park Rangers	17	5	7	5	20	21	22
Huddersfield	16	5	5	6	20	24	20
Portsmouth	18	5	5	8	20	24	20
West Bromwich	16	4	8	4	19	23	20
Southend	18	4	8	6	18	28	20
Ipswich	17	4	7	6	21	24	19
Manchester City	15	6	1	8	16	21	19
Reading	16	5	3	8	19	27	18
Birmingham	14	4	5	5	15	17	17
Charlton	14	5	2	7	14	21	17
Oldham	18	3	6	9	19	23	15
Bradford	18	3	5	10	14	32	14
Grimsby	17	3	4	10	18	36	13

Division 2

Blackpool	1	Bournemouth	1
Brentford	2	Stockport	2
Bristol City	1	Millwall	1
Bury	2	Crewe	0
Bury	4	York	1
Chesterfield	2	Preston	1
Gillingham	1	Wrexham	2
Luton	2	Notts County	0
Rotherham	0	Watford	0
Walsall	4	Peterborough	0
Wycombe	2	Plymouth	1

Table

Millwall	18	10	5	3	30	20	35
Brentford	18	9	6	3	30	21	33
Bury	18	9	6	3	26	16	33
Wrexham	17	8	8	1	26	18	32
Luton	17	9	4	4	26	18	31
Crewe	18	10	1	7	23	17	31
Watford	18	8	7	3	20	15	31
Chesterfield	18	9	3	6	17	15	30
Bristol City	18	8	5	5	33	20	29
Burnley	18	8	3	7	25	21	27
Stockport	18	7	6	5	23	22	27
Bristol Rovers	17	6	7	4	16	13	25
York	18	6	4	8	22	27	22
Plymouth	18	5	6	7	22	25	21
Shrewsbury	17	5	5	7	18	23	20
Blackpool	18	4	8	6	17	19	20
Walsall	18	5	4	9	19	23	19
Gillingham	18	5	4	9	18	24	19
Bournemouth	18	5	3	10	14	22	18
Peterborough	18	3	8	7	25	34	17
Notts County	18	4	5	9	13	20	17
Preston	18	4	4	10	16	22	16
Rotherham	18	3	5	10	16	26	14
Wycombe	18	3	5	10	16	30	14

Division 3

Barnet	3	Rochdale	2
Brighton	1	Mansfield	1
Cambridge United	2	Swansea	1
Cardiff	1	Fulham	2
Chester	0	Hull	0
Exeter	3	Leyton Orient	2
Lincoln	2	Darlington	0
Northampton	1	Carlisle	1
Scarborough	2	Hartlepool	4
Scunthorpe	1	Doncaster	2

Torquay	0	Colchester	2
Wigan	4	Hereford	1

Table

Fulham	18	13	1	4	30	14	40
Cambridge Utd	18	11	3	4	28	21	36
Wigan	18	11	2	5	33	21	35
Carlisle	18	8	6	4	23	17	30
Scarborough	18	7	8	3	29	23	29
Torquay	18	8	4	6	22	18	28
Cardiff	17	8	4	5	21	16	28
Barnet	18	7	7	4	19	13	28
Lincoln	18	8	3	7	25	24	27
Chester	17	7	5	5	19	18	26
Hull	18	5	9	4	16	19	24
Northampton	18	6	5	7	24	19	23
Colchester	18	5	8	5	21	22	23
Rochdale	18	5	7	6	23	22	22
Doncaster	18	6	3	9	20	23	21
Hereford	18	6	3	9	20	25	21
Scunthorpe	18	6	3	9	20	25	21
Mansfield	18	4	8	6	18	20	20
Swansea	18	5	5	8	18	24	20
Exeter	18	6	2	10	18	26	20
Leyton Orient	18	5	5	8	13	17	20
Hartlepool	18	5	3	10	20	25	18
Darlington	18	4	4	10	22	32	16
Brighton	18	3	4	11	15	33	13

France First Division

- Nov 6 -

Auxerre	2	Metz	3
Bastia	3	Lyon	1
Bordeaux	1	Cannes	0
Caca	0	Nantes	0
Nancy	2	Guingamp	0
Nice	0	Paris St Germain	1
Lille	2	Lens	1
Rennes	1	Le Havre	1
Strasbourg	2	Montpellier	1

Friendly Internationals

Sarajevo		Italy	1
Bosnia Herzegovina	2	Australia Olympic XI	2
Sth Africa Olympic XI	0	Batist 40, Curcija 77	

Italy

Serie B

Bari	0	Cesena	0
C Sangro	0	Brescia	3
Chievo	2	Salernitana	1
Cosenza	2	Empoli	2
Genoa	1	Pescara	1
Lucchese	1	Venezia	1
Padova	1	Reggina	1
Palermo	2	Lecce	3
Ravenna	2	Foggia	2
Torino	0	Cremonese	1

Table

Lecce	10	8	1	1	18	8	25
Pescara	10	6	4	0	17	7	22
Brescia	10	4	5	1	12	7	17
Lucchese	10	4	4	2	9	4	16
Bari	10	3	6	1	15	8	15
Genoa	10	3	6	1	11	6	15
Chievo	10	4	3	3	12	11	15
Torino	10	4	3	3	10	9	15
Padova	10	4	3	3	10	9	15
Ravenna	10	3	4	3	11	11	13
Foggia	10	3	3	4	10	13	12
Salernitana	10	3	3	4	6	9	12
Empoli	10	3	3	4	9	13	12
Cesena	10	2	5	3	9	9	11
Palermo	10	2	4	4	10	13	10
C Sangro	10	3	1	6	5	14	10
Cosenza	10	1	5	4	6	12	8
Venezia	10	1	4	5	9	13	7
Cremonese	10	2	1	7	4	11	7
Reggina	10	0	6	4	8	14	6



Japan J-League

- Nov 6 -

Kyoto Purple Sanga	0	Kashuwa Reysol	1
Kashuwa Antlers	4	Nagoya Grampus Eight	2
Yokohama Flugels	1	Jubilo Iwata	2
JEF United Ichihara	1	Verdy Kawasaki	5
Bellmare Hiratsuka	2	Gamba Osaka	0
Shizuoka S-Pulse	0	Yokohama Marinos	2
Cerezo Osaka	3	Urawa Red Diamonds	1



Sanfrecce Hiroshima 2 Avispa Fukuoka 4

- Nov 9 -

Yokohama Marinos	3	Sanfrecce Hiroshima	1
Jubilo Iwata	1	Shimizu S-Pulse	2
Urawa Red Diam	3	Yokohama Flugels	0
Nag Gramp Eight	2	Cerezo Osaka	1
Gamba Osaka	2	JEF United Ichihara	1
Kashuwa REysol	2	Bellmare Hiratsuka	4
Avispa Fukuoka	0	Kyoto Purple Sanga	2
Verdy Kawasaki	5	Kashima Antlers	0

Table

Kashima Antlers	21	9	61	34	66
Nagoya Grampus Eight	21	9	63	39	63
Yokohama Flugels	21	9	58	44	63
Jubilo Iwata	20	10	53	38	62
Kashuwa Reysol	20	10	67	52	60
Urawa Red Diamonds	19	11	51	31	59
Verdy Kawasaki	19	11	68	42	57
Yokohama Marinos	14	16	39	40	42
JEF United Ichihara	13	17	45	47	40
Shizuoka S-Pulse	12	18	50	60	37
Bellmare Hiratsuka	12	18	47	58	36
Gamba Osaka	11	19	38	59	33
Cerezo Osaka	10	20	38	56	30
Sanfrecce Hiroshima	10	20	36	60	30
Avispa Fukuoka	9	21	42	64	29
Kyoto Purple Sanga	8	22	22	54	24

KASHIMA ANTLERS ARE THE J-LEAGUE CHAMPIONS FOR 1996.

Romania First Division

F.C. National Buch	4	Universitatea Cluj	3
Steaua Bucharest	3	Universitatea Craiova	0
A.S. Bacau	1	F.C. Arges Dacia Pitesti	2
Ceahlau Piatra Nea	1	Dinamo Bucharest	1
Gloria Bistrita	5	Otelul Galati	0
F.C. Brasov	2	F.C. Petrolul Ploiesti	1
F.C. Farul Constanta	1	Sportul Studentesc	0
Rapid Bucharest	3	Jiul Petrosani	0

Table

Steaua Bucharest	13	9	2	2	24	11	29
F.C. Nat Buch	13	9	2	2	23	12	29
Otelul Galati	13	7	2	4	22	17	23
Dinamo Buch	13	6	4	3	18	10	22
F.C. Arg Dac Pit	13	6	2	5	20	17	20
Universitatea Cluj	13	5	4	4	19	18	19
Ceahlau Piatra Nea	13	5	4	4	17	18	19
Jiul Petrosani	13	6	1	6	13	20	19
F.C. Farul Cons	13	5	3	5	15	14	18
Rapid Bucharest	13	5	2	6	16	16	17
A.S. Bacau	13	4	4	5	15	13	16
Unvers Craiova	13	4	3	6	19	20	15
Sportul Student	13	4	2	7	15	19	14
Gloria Bistrita	13	3	3	7	12	19	12
F.C. Petro Ploie	13	3	3	7	17	18	12
F.C. Brasov	13	3	3	7	13	25	12
Politehnica Timi	12	2	2	8	16	29	8

Scotland

Premier division

No matches played

Division One

Airdrieonians	0	Dundee	0
Falkirk	5	Stirling	2
St Mirren	1	Clydebank	0



Table

Airdrieonians	13	5	7	1	23	13	22
Dundee	13	6	4	3	10	7	22
St Johnstone	11	6	2	3	19	8	20
St Mirren	13	6	2	5	19	17	20
Falkirk	13	6	2	5	14	12	20
Partick	12	5	4	3	20	11	19
Greenock Morton	12	5	3	4	14	11	18
Clydebank	13	4	1	8	10	20	13
Stirling	13	2	3	8	14	24	9
East Fife	11	1	4	6	8	28	7



WORLD RESULTS & TABLES

World Cup Qualifiers

CAF Africa

Group 2

Egypt	7	Namibia	1
Tunisia	1	Liberia	0
(Played in Accra, Ghana due to the war in Liberia)			

Group 3

Congo	1	Zambia	0
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Group 4

Togo	2	Cameroon	4
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Group 5

Gabon	1	Ghana	1
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CONCACAF

USA	2	Trinidad & Tobago	0
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Saint Vincent	0	Mexico	3
Jamaica	3	Honduras	0
Honduras	2	Mexico	1
Saint Vincent	1	Honduras	4
Mexico	2	Jamaica	1
Honduras	0	Jamaica	0
Mexico	5	Saint Vincent	1
Mexico	3	Honduras	1
Jamaica	5	St Vincent	0

Table

Mexico	5	4	0	1	14	5	12
Jamaica	5	3	1	1	11	3	10
Honduras	5	2	1	2	7	8	7
Saint Vincent	5	0	0	5	3	19	0

The first two teams of each group qualify for the second round. The first three teams of the second qualifying round will go to France '98.

South America

Paraguay	1	Ecuador	0
Peru	4	Venezuela	1
Bolivia	2	Colombia	2

Europe

Group One

Slovenia	1	Bosnia	2
Croatia	1	Greece	1

Table

Greece	4	2	1	1	7	3	7
Denmark	2	2	0	0	4	1	6
Croatia	2	1	1	0	5	2	4
Slovenia	2	0	0	2	0	4	0
Bosnia	2	0	0	2	1	7	0

Group Two

Georgia	0	England	2
Poland	2	Moldova	1

Table

England	3	3	0	0	7	1	9
Italy	2	2	0	0	4	1	6
Poland	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Georgia	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Moldova	2	0	0	2	1	6	0

Group Three

Switzerland	0	Norway	1
Azerbaijan	0	Hungary	3

Table

Norway	3	3	0	0	9	0	9
Hungary	3	2	0	1	4	3	6
Switzerland	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Azerbaijan	3	1	0	2	1	8	3
Finland	2	0	0	2	2	4	0

Group Four

Austria	2	Latvia	1
Scotland	1	Sweden	0

Table

Scotland	3	2	1	0	3	0	7
Austria	3	2	1	0	3	1	7
Sweden	4	2	0	2	7	4	6
Belarus	4	1	1	2	3	7	4
Estonia	2	1	0	1	1	1	3
Latvia	4	0	1	3	3	7	1



Davor Suker: Rescued Croatia from the jaws of defeat by Greece in European Group 1 World Cup Qualifier

Group Five

Cyprus	2	Israel	0
Luxembourg	0	Russia	4

Table

Russia	3	2	1	0	9	1	7
Israel	3	1	1	1	3	4	4
Bulgaria	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Cyprus	2	1	0	1	2	4	3
Luxembourg	2	0	0	2	1	6	0

Portugal	1	Ukraine	0
Albania	1	Armenia	1

Table

Portugal	4	2	1	1	5	2	7
Ukraine	3	2	0	1	3	2	6
Germany	2	1	1	0	6	2	4
Northern Ireland	3	0	2	1	2	3	2
Armenia	4	0	3	1	3	7	3
Albania	2	0	1	1	1	4	1

Group Six

Yugoslavia	1	Czech Republic	0
Spain		Slovakia	

Table

Yugoslavia	4	4	0	0	18	2	12
Slovakia	3	3	0	0	11	1	9
Czech Republic	3	1	1	1	6	0	4
Spain	2	1	1	0	6	2	4
Faroe Islands	5	0	0	5	5	22	0
Malta	3	0	0	3	0	18	0

Group Seven

Netherlands	7	Wales	1
Turkey	7	San Marino	0

Table

Netherlands	2	2	0	0	10	2	6
Belgium	2	2	0	0	5	1	6
Wales	4	2	0	2	13	10	6
Turkey	2	1	0	1	8	2	3
San Marino	4	0	0	4	0	21	0

Group Eight

Liechtenstein	1	Macedonia	11
Ireland	0	Iceland	0

Table

Macedonia	4	2	1	1	15	5	7
Ireland	3	2	1	0	8	0	7
Romania	2	2	0	0	7	0	6
Lithuania	3	2	0	1	4	4	6
Iceland	4	0	2	2	1	7	2
Liechtenstein	4	0	0	4	2	21	0

Group Nine

Germany	1	Northern Ireland	1
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Hakan Sukur: Scored a brace for Turkey in their 7-0 annihilation of Little San Marino in Group 7 of the European World Cup Qualifiers



WORLD STORIES

MILAN'S SLUMP CONTINUES

By LANCE LIBRANDI

Away wins to Inter and lesser-light Vicenza have the two sides leading the Serie A. Juventus and Milan, both at their home stadiums, played out draws, while Lazio slipped further down the table despite having the most potent attack in Italy. Roma and Parma also lost ground.

Bologna 3 (Kolyvanov 43, Marocchi 54, Bresciani 78)

Roma 2 (Balbo 64 pen, 87 pen)

Roma are a club in crisis following their latest set-back, an away loss to unfancied Bologna. Roma conceded most of the play in an emotionally charged match which saw Statuto for Roma given a red card, along with Bologna coach Olivieri, in the second half. Not even two penalties, both well converted by striker Balbo, were enough to save Roma, who in the last few weeks have also been dumped from the Italian Cup and UEFA Cup competitions.

Cagliari 2 (Cozza 45, Banchelli 57)

Perugia 1 (Pizzi 89)

Newly-promoted Perugia, despite a late goal, went down to lowly Cagliari. Their visit to Sardinia resulted in no points, but they still find themselves mid-table, which

must be a pleasing start for coach Mazzone at this early stage. Cagliari dominated the match and will need to reproduce that form next round, where they visit Roma in Rome.

Juventus 1 (Zidane 42)

Napoli 1 (Aglietti 53)

Juve let three points slip in Turin this round against the unpredictable Napoli. The southerners came from a goal behind in the first half and left midfielder Zidane found the goal after capitalising on a goalkeeping error made by Tagliapietra, but Napoli striker Aglietti levelled soon after the break. Juventus stars Del Piero and Boksic were substituted in the 61st minute in an effort to rejuvenate the disappointing home side, to no avail, but the leading Italian club still find themselves in third spot leading up to the huge round 9 clash against Milan.

Lazio 0

Vicenza 2 (Murgita 36, Maini 89)

Surprise packet Vicenza have risen to second place on the Serie A ladder with an emphatic away win against Lazio. The Roman side are in big trouble with only 8 points from 8 games, and were torn apart by a less talented but far more determined side. Vicenza played with five in midfield and a single striker, and defended their lead for

the second half until the final minutes when they killed off the match with a goal from midfielder Maini. Lazio coach Zeman must be on thin ice, even at this early point in the season.

Milan 1 (Albertini 53 pen)

Atalanta 1 (Inzaghi 21)

Title-holders Milan continue their form slump, coming from behind to salvage a draw against Atalanta at the San Siro. Owner Berlusconi has publicly defended Milan coach Tabarez, saying the players know their responsibilities. Albertini converted the penalty in the second half, given after a foul by Atalanta keeper Micillo. Lentini, on loan from Milan, provided the pass for Inzaghi to score the opening goal. Inzaghi was red-carded late in the game after a second yellow card, but this was of no help to hapless Milan. Weah and Simone played poorly, and Baggio, who came on as a substitute in the 68th minute, lasted only 19 minutes. He came close to scoring twice, hitting the post both times, before coming off the field in 87th minute after a head clash and spending the night in hospital for observation. Milan will need solutions quickly, meeting Juve next round.

Parma 0

Fiorentina 0

Parma got a much-needed point

with an uneventful draw at home against the team from Florence. They were sliding down the table in recent weeks, and have temporarily halted on 11 points after losing their previous two matches. Fiorentina played almost the entire second half with ten men after defender Carnasciali received a second booking in the 48th minute. Parma could not capitalise on their advantage, despite having most of the play. They also dominated with seven shots on goal to two, but the game still ended with a point apiece. Both teams face testing games next round.



Olivier Bierhoff, dropped by Germany, put one away for Udinese

Sampdoria 3 (Mancini 16, 80, Carparelli 55)

Piacenza 0

In his final match for Sampdoria before moving to Inter, Mancini capped off a memorable farewell with two fine goals. A rejected penalty claim could have given the form striker his hat-trick. Piacenza were completely outplayed, and only their keeper prevented a much larger deficit. This game may also have been the last for star Samp import Karembeu, who is on his way to Spanish club Barcelona. All eyes were on Mancini however, who leaves despite his fanatical following by supporters at this club.

Udinese 2 (Bierhoff 48, Poggi 87)

Reggiana 1 (Valencia 65)

A late goal by Udinese striker Poggi gave them the points in their home clash against bottom side Reggiana. Udinese find themselves mid-table on 12 points, while Reggiana have an early hold on relegation territory with only 4 points from 8 games. German import Bierhoff scored in his first game back from a two week suspension.

Verona 0

Inter 1 (Zanetti 85)

Argentine midfielder Zanetti scored his third goal of the season to earn Inter an away win and propel

them to the top of the Serie A ladder. It seemed the home side would contain the Milanese team to a draw, but Zanetti's great goal gives coach Hodgson a dream start to the season with 17 points, and Sampdoria striker Mancini joining the squad next week. Verona, on the other hand, are struggling in second to last place.

IN BRIEF:

Roberto Baggio, who is struggling with form and has not been able to make the starting eleven for both Milan and Italy, has been approached by Napoli.

Paul Ince, along with team-mates Winter and Angloma, are having trouble with racist taunts from rival supporters, the latest run-in being with Verona fans who rained missiles and insults on the players during their round 8 match. Winter sparked the unruly crowd, gesturing to them following Inter's late goal.

The transfer of Christian Karembeu to Barcelona is believed to be worth about 11 million dollars.

Glasgow Rangers are talking to Juventus regarding possible deals for Juventus players Nicola Amoroso and Christian Vieri. Vieri has expressed his desire to play in England, but to date the Italian club has not shown any intention of negotiating deals for either player.

J-LEAGUE WON BY KASHIMA

Kashima Antlers clinched their first J-League championship on Saturday despite a season-ending 5-0 loss to Verdy Kawasaki.

Despite Kashima's away game, "Zico" calls echoed in Kawasaki Stadium as the Antlers players tossed their Brazilian technical director Zico aloft again and again in triumph. Kawasaki finished in seventh place.

Kashima were virtually assured of the title after the season's penultimate game last Wednesday when they beat Nagoya Grampus Eight

4-2 while closest rivals, Yokohama Flugels, lost to Jubilo Iwata 2-1.

Kashima entered their final game with a three-point lead and a comfortable 15-goal difference over the Flugels.

In other final game action, the Flugels lost 3-0 to the Urawa Red Diamonds, and therefore fell to third place.

Zico, who served briefly as Brazil's first sports minister after retiring from his active soccer career in 1990, joined up with the Antlers in 1993, when the Japan-League began with 10 teams. He was a key playmaker for the Antlers.

After Kashima lost to Kawasaki in the inaugural year's championship match, Zico, nicknamed "the genius" in Japan, quit to return to Brazil. But he later came back to coach and train the Antlers.

"It is a great title for us. I'm proud of the team," Zico said.

Nagoya Grampus Eight ended the season in second place, edging Cerezo Osaka 2-1. Defending champions Yokohama Marinos beat Sanfrecce Hiroshima 3-1 and finished eighth.

YUGOSLAVIA MAINTAINS FORM

Real Madrid striker Predrag Mijatovic fired an 18th minute goal to sustain Yugoslavia's 100% record in its World Cup qualifying campaign with a 1-0 win against the Czech Republic 1-0 on Sunday.

Yugoslavia heads European Group Six with 12 points from four wins in four matches and an impressive 18 goals for, with just 2 against.

The Czech Republic are third, eight points behind the leader but with a game in hand.

Yugoslavia's early

offensive was rewarded when Mijatovic slotted the ball past goalkeeper Pavel Smcek after receiving a pass from Dragan Stojkovic and storming down the right.

Cheered by a sellout crowd of 50,000 in Belgrade, the Yugoslavs kept up a relentless drive in the second half but failed to make the most of a series of chances between the 45th and 70th minutes.

Both keepers were kept busy, Kocic barely clearing a left-foot thunderbolt from Smcek five minutes into stoppage time and seconds before the final whistle.

SOUTH KOREA AND JAPAN AGREE FORMAT

Japan and South Korea have cleared the first and biggest hurdle of the 2002 World Cup by agreeing to play the opening match in Seoul and the final in Japan.

"Japan will stage the Final and the closing ceremony and

South Korea the opening game and the opening ceremony," said an official in Seoul at the Office of Preparation for 2002 FIFA World Cup.

The deal was confirmed by Japanese officials and it now needs formal approval only by a FIFA Executive Committee meeting in Barcelona in December 7.

The agreements were reached at a meeting in Zurich last Wednesday that was arranged by FIFA, the Seoul official said.



FENCE FREE WORLD CUP 98

FIFA counted their dead last week and announced steps to prevent the further loss of lives at matches.

Having resolved the tricky issues surrounding co-hosting of the 2002 World Cup by Japan and South Korea last Wednesday, FIFA's World Cup organising committee spent the second day of meetings wrestling with stadium security after recent incidents claimed more than 90 lives.

Until further notice, Guatemala's Flores Mateo Stadium where 84 people were killed in a stampede prior to the start of a World Cup qualifier against Costa Rica last month, will not be used for matches. Guatemala's two remaining World Cup home games, with Costa Rica and then Trinidad and Tobago, will be held in neighbouring countries.

A report from the FIFA disciplinary

committee confirmed that all necessary security measures had been taken at the match between Zambia and Sudan on June 16 that claimed nine lives.

In an effort to avoid a similar tragedy, the World Cup qualifying match between Liberia and Tunisia on November 10 has been moved to Accra, Ghana because of the volatile political situation in Liberia.

FIFA also continued to push for a fence-free 1998 World Cup in France.

The decision on having all fences removed from French stadiums will hinge on a report from a government study group due out next January.

"All French football is in favour of removing fences forever," said FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter, an outspoken advocate for the abolition of fences in stadiums. "But it will take time."

"It is a French government decree

that clubs put up fences so first the decree must be changed."

The 1998 World Cup organising committee also confirmed that the final draw will be staged in the newly renovated stadium in Marseille on



December 4 following a special match.

The two squads will be made up of one player each from countries qualified for the 1998 World Cup, 15 from Europe and 17 from the rest of the world.

But FIFA made no decision about reversing their stand that World Cup matches could be staged in the Kosovo Stadium in Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia.

Bosnia, which beat Italy 2-1 in the stadium in a friendly last week, will still have to play World Cup matches in a neutral country.

FIFA spokesman Keith Cooper said: "The question of Bosnia was raised by the committee this morning, but it merely noted that Bosnia played its World Cup match in Bologna last month and no decision was taken to allow Bosnia to play home matches in Sarajevo."

INTERNATIONAL SPORT RETURNS TO SARAJEVO

Bosnia Herzegovina stunned mighty Italy 2-1 in the first international game played in Sarajevo since the recent war.

The defeat could spell the end of Arrigo Sacchi's tenure as Italian coach after the early elimination in the Euro 96 championship and an impressive World Cup qualifying win over Georgia and Moldova.

The game was organised by the Italian and Bosnian

soccer federations to underline the normalisation of life and sport in the war-ravaged city.



RISING STARS

INSTITUTE DOWN LAKERS IN NYL - VICTORIA

By ROY HAY

BENTLEIGH GREENS 1 GIPPSLAND FALCONS 3

Gippsland Falcons opened Round Four with an away win over Bentleigh Greens. Wally Noppert started the scoring for the Falcons after 15 minutes, and though the visitors dominated the match they could not add to their total till the last ten minutes. Esala Masi got the second goal in the 82nd, and Mauro De Luca extended the gap after 84. Chris Christou scored Bentleigh Greens' goal in the last minute, when both keepers were struggling to see the ball.

SUNSHINE GEORGIES 2 BOX HILL 1

Sunshine Georgies kept their one hundred per cent record after downing Box Hill by two goals to one at Chaplin Reserve. Mohammed El Kersh scored the first after 22 minutes after a run down the wing in which he beat two players then fired a shot between the keeper and his goal post. Box Hill seemed to have salvaged a point when Mark Selimi scored his third goal in successive games in 73 minutes. The Georgies would not settle for the draw and when Aaron Sicluna's shot was blocked by a defender, Lee Bickle repeated last week's effort by latching on to the rebound and putting it away for the winner in the 80th minute. It also took his season's tally to three.

SOUTH MELBOURNE 0 VIS 2

In the match of the round, the Victorian Institute of Sport beat South Melbourne at Bob Jane Stadium thanks to early and late goals and a brilliant penalty save by Peter Zois. Grgo Saric put Bill Petrovski away inside 90 seconds and the striker beat keeper John Spanos. The pitch was inundated after heavy rain and passing became a lottery as the ball alternately skidded through and then stuck in the water. Alfonso Opazo had an effort touched wide by Zois, then George Tzirtis blasted the rebound just past the post. Steve Panopoulos put a free kick just over the bar as Souths tried to get on terms. In the second half Chris Nedza had a long shot just over the bar, then Alex Efsthathiou's shot was deflected to Tansel Baser who again tested the keeper. Zoran Petrovski of the VIS should have wrapped the match up when he was clean through but shot straight at Spanos. Then Con Anthopoulos seemed to have won the ball before Bill Petrovski went over his legs, but the referee awarded a penalty, coolly converted by Lev Osman. In stoppage time South Melbourne got a penalty, but Zois dived to save Efsthathiou's shot and the VIS were home, if not dry.

GREEN GULLY 0 MELBOURNE KNIGHTS COLTS 1

Melbourne Knights Colts surprised Green Gully when Ivan Razov scored the only goal of the game in 87 minutes. Green Gully



Lev Osman: Finished off Lakers with a late penalty

dominated the first half but could not score, and even in the second David Maglovski had about four opportunities but found keeper Jeff Sabol in brilliant form. The Colts relied on counter-attacks and just when it seemed the match was bound to end in a draw, Razov beat a defender and drew the keeper before slotting home the winner.

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 5 ALTONA MAGIC 1

Melbourne Knights found themselves a goal behind in the first minute against the young Altona Magic, but in the end came away to win by five goals to one. Daniel Vasilevski gave Magic a good start and it took the Knights half an hour to get level through Ilija Dragicevic.

Daniel Radosevic put the Knights ahead in 72 minutes, then Branko Bacak got two goals on either side of an unfortunate own goal conceded by the Magic.

HEIDELBERG 3 COLLINGWOOD 3

Heidelberg United and Collingwood Warriors shared six goals at Olympic Village in what was a homecoming for many of last year's Heidelberg youth players now forming the backbone of the Warriors' line-up. The Warriors went off to a two-nil lead through Petros Liapis and Jim Parris, but Arthur Tsonis pulled a goal back before the interval. Elias Kyniakou equalised then Steve Pouniotis restored the Warriors lead, but the young Heidelberg team was not to be denied and

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE Northern Division

Round 4 — 3 NOVEMBER 1996

Wollongong City	2	Newcastle Breakers	4
Kariamls (3), Barilla (89)		Hodgson (28), McGuire (48, 89), Heath (50)	
UTS Olympic Colts	2	Marconi Fairfield Colts	1
Sterimiso (46), Lombardo (61)		Bruni (79)	
Sydney United Colts	0	AIS	2
		Sternovski (19), Tomich (79)	
Marconi Fairfield	0	Sydney United	2
		Aschner (34, 72)	
UTS Olympic	1	NSW IS	0
Rastall (20)			

TABLE	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AIS	4	3	1	0	8	2	10
UTS Olympic	3	3	0	0	8	2	9
Marconi Fairfield	4	3	0	1	4	2	9
Sydney United	3	2	1	0	4	1	7
Newcastle Breakers	3	2	0	1	7	6	6
Wollongong City	4	1	2	1	6	7	5
QAS	3	1	0	2	5	5	3
Marconi Fairfield Colts	4	1	0	3	6	7	3
UTS Olympic Colts	2	1	0	1	3	4	3
NSWIS	3	1	0	2	1	3	3
ACT AS	3	0	0	3	1	7	0
Sydney United Colts	4	0	0	4	1	8	0

Kyniakou levelled again. Tass Amaridis had a fine game for the Bergers, but the whole

team, particularly the defenders deserved credit for a gutsy performance.

five goals to two. Marco Maisanon put Springvale into the lead in 37 minutes only for John Sciarone to equalise two minutes later. Maisano did it again just on the interval, but this time Lirim Salievski was on target two minutes after the break.

David De Propertis finally turned the game the Zebras way with goals in 80 and 87 minutes and Carmelo Impiombata added a fifth in 89.

SPRINGVALE 2 THOMASTOWN 5

In another ding-dong battle at Ross Reserve, Springvale City and Thomastown Zebras exchanged goals until the last ten minutes when the Zebras scored three times to win by



NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE RESULTS

Victorian Division Rd 5

9-10 NOVEMBER 1996

Gippsland Falcons	6	Heidelberg United (og)	1
(Byrne, Hutchison, Sekulic, Thompson, Masi, Noppert)			
Altona Magic	1	Thomastown Zebras	0
(Trpcevska)			
VIS	1	Melbourne Knights	1
(Anderson)		(Medugorac)	
Green Gully	1	South Melbourne	7
(Gec)		(Allsopp 3, Tzirtis 2, Liparotti, Knezevic)	
Collingwood Warriors	1	Sunshine Georgies	3
(Stefanidis)		(El Kersh 2, Micalieff)	
Melbourne Knights Colts	5	Box Hill	1
(Dragicevic 2, Kablar, Paleka, Razov)		(Paladino)	
Springvale City	0	Bentleigh Greens	0

TABLE	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sunshine Georgies	5	5	0	0	10	3	15
VIS	5	4	1	0	12	2	13
South Melbourne	5	4	0	1	22	6	12
Gippsland Falcons	5	3	0	2	15	10	9
Melbourne Knights Colts	5	3	0	2	12	8	9
Melbourne Knights	5	2	2	1	13	8	8
Green Gully	5	2	0	3	8	14	6
Collingwood Warriors	4	1	2	1	9	9	5
Bentleigh Greens	4	1	1	2	5	5	4
Springvale City Reds	5	1	1	3	5	15	4
Thomastown Zebras	4	1	0	3	8	9	3
Altona Magic	5	1	0	4	5	19	3
Heidelberg United	5	0	2	3	7	15	2
Box Hill	4	0	1	3	4	12	1

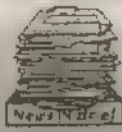
SUNSMART NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE

TABLE	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SASI	3	2	1	0	13	5	7
West Adelaide	3	2	1	0	3	1	7
Adelaide Blue Eagles	3	2	0	1	5	3	6
Adelaide City	2	1	1	0	6	2	4
Modbury	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
Woodville City	3	1	0	2	5	4	3
Cumberland United	3	0	0	3	5	12	0
Para Hills	3	0	0	3	3	15	0

STH AUSTRALIAN SOCCER FEDERATION SUNSMART NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE

Cumberland United 3	
(Parker, Maddison, Stuart)	
SASI	5
(Ewing 2, Demourtzidis, Brain 1)	
Adelaide Blue Eagles	3
(Mango, Castella, Hodgeman)	
Para Hills	1
(Selfort)	
Woodville City	0
West Adelaide	1
(Vidakovic)	

News in Brief



... by BOB BROOKS



The article on goalkeeper coaching a couple of weeks ago in which Fred Wall was interviewed by Henry Wiggler, prompted Dez Marton to tell me of his role in the development of Mike Gibson and Terry Greedy.

For the younger folk amongst our readers, Marton was a dynamic and prolific goalscorer for St George, in Sydney when the Saints were in the National League.

Dez was recruited by Frank Arok from the then Yugoslavia Second Division. Marton could shoot with either foot and was a strong header of the ball. He was the scourge of all opposing goalies.



Goalkeepers need shots to save as part of their training. Marton stayed back to fire in the ball for Mike Gibson and Terry Greedy to save. The two keepers got plenty of practice with Dez Marton. Conversely Marton was also getting his own practice.

Gibson had been with Penrith in the NSL but he decided he'd rather be on the same side as the man with the cannon ball shots, rather than face him. Smart man Mr Gibson.



A top goalkeeper, more than 800 games in the top flight mainly in England's Premier and at 44 years or age still having his daily run, swim and training. Even when in Australia recently.

That's John Burridge. However, he needs some good training in presentation skills. When he addressed an audience he seemed as nervous as a kitten.

Women's Soccer international players sure start young. In September 1981 Kim Lembryk made her first appearance in Australia's colours. Ms Lembryk was 15 years and 7 months.

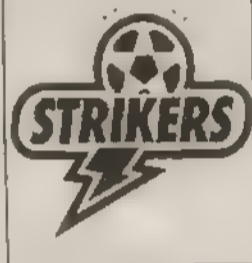
Also 15 on debut was Amy Wilson when on March 29 this year she stepped out for the Aussies. Amy celebrated her 16th birthday in June.

Is it a case of maturing sooner for the female of the species or are the males slow learners?



Interesting to note that the Strikers found it virtually impossible to set a spark to an away win last season, in fact to any kind of a result away from the tropical State.

In two away games this season they have lit a fire under South Melbourne at the Bob Jane Stadium and extinguished Adelaide City's hopes of maximum points.



Something must be clicking in the Sunshine State.

But where are the hoards of supporters they so richly deserve?



Some warm tributes were paid to Paul Wade on his retirement from the international arena.

George Negus, Soccer Australia said, "It's doubtful



that any sport could boast (or) a better ambassador. Paul is a one off."

David Hill described Wade as, "a person to be admired for his personal and sporting standards and a truly great Australian."

Treat yourself, to a self indulgent Christmas present, get Paul Wade's book, Captain Socceroo.



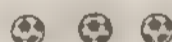
Strange who you meet on journeys, isn't it? Bill Falzon, a Football Committee member at Blacktown City, was flying to Adelaide recently on business. He was wearing his Club sweater.

Bill always buys a football paper to read on the trip - ABSW maybe? The lady next to him noticed the paper and asked him if he was interested in Soccer - a foolish question.



Moments later, the lady's son, Matthew Bradley was introduced to Mr Falzon. The boy is a goalie, aged 12 and now living in Holland. However, his stated ambition is to play for Australia! Now there's a reversal in ambition.

This Australian born youngster has a dream - watch for the name!



As reported in 'Women's Writes' last week, Quakers Hill Ladies Under 17s lost in the Champion of Champions final. However one of their players scored a hat-trick in the game.

Her name is Emma Micallef and she plays in the Under 13s. Emma must have plenty of potential as her three in the final added to an earlier hat-trick!



Advertising pays! Just ask Leon Gardikiotis and Vince Colagiura. These two have just launched their Football School of Excellence. They advertised once in ABSW.

On a very wet Monday, the day before the Melbourne Cup, they readied themselves at Concord near the City end of the M4, in Sydney's West.

Forty potential students turned up including three from the Gosford area and one from Wollongong.

So if you're thinking of advertising anything to do with our great game - ring us in Marrickville.



Noticed the crowds in Perth? And this is only their first season. The supporters are noisy and very pro The Glory.

Poor old Canberra were overwhelmed by the support for the home team. They reckon the crowd is worth at least one goal.



That must have been the case six times over!

Never thought we'd see one of the new boys score so many, so soon.



Last week we had the CONCACAF results and tables, minus those played

on the weekend. A sharp reader rang Wednesday and said there is just twelve countries in the Confederation, including that 'giant power', St Vincent.

He observed that three of the twelve qualify for the World Cup Finals in 1998. That is, 25% of the countries go to France. This will probably include the USA and Mexico and then one from Canada, El Salvador, Jamaica and Honduras.

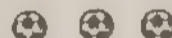
The point is that Oceania have zero automatic qualifiers. Politics comes into play once more. For an Oceania country to get to France 98 they must play off against the fourth placed team in Asia.



A club in Sydney, currently in NSW Soccer Federation's Division 1 are busily working at being a profitable organisation.

They are actively selling shares in the company at around \$25,000 each, and there are investors taking up the offer. They range from private businesses, to medical practitioners, to individuals with a belief in the direction of the Club.

Now that's innovation.



This same club in co-operation with the local district association advertised in ABSW for players to trial for their Under 18s.

Such is the appeal of this Club that 56 turned up to try out. Their Senior Coach, a former international midfield creator for Australia, was stunned and delighted to be faced with sorting them out into a viable squad for 1997.

The 'Sunsmart' National Youth League, South Australia Division. Quite a mouthful. 'Sunsmart' is part of the healthy lifestyle promotion in South Aussie.

It is funded by a 3 cent a packet levy on all cigarettes sold in that state. Although the competition is a summer one, it nevertheless lives up to its name as games are either played in the early morning or in the evening.



Casey de Bruin and Connie Selby are two coaches working under the management of David Lee at the NSW Institute of Sport. They run the Soccer Program as part of the NSW State Government's commitment to 25 sports at the NSWIS.

Both men and women are catered for with Soccer being run at Valentine Sports Park, Glenwood. As well as the sports facilities at Glenwood, the Soccer participants gain use of the weights room, testing and physiological facilities at the Homebush site.

There is a four year plan to produce players for both the men's and women's Olympic Football tournament in 2000.

Four of the men's squad,



Gareth Edds: Selected for training at Leeds by the Big Brother Movement.

actually aged Under 16, are currently involved in the Big Brother Movement and enjoying stints with professional clubs in England. They are Francesco Da Roit, Anthony Dear, Gareth Edds and Peter Petrovski.



Illusions! Our spies tell us that Mr Robbie Wheatley, at the Wollongong City versus South Melbourne game last Friday night was strangely

The camera valiantly tried to show his smart shirt neat tie, immaculately buttoned jacket and smartly groomed hair.

However, when one checked the lower half of this suave sophisticated, gentleman there was a huge contrast!

Navy blue baggy track suit pants and white and blue joggers completed the ensemble.

It just goes to show that what you see on TV is not necessarily there is reality.

This was in contrast to Bertie Mariani who was immaculately attired.

The difference between the actual play and the referee's performance mirrored the difference between Wheatley and Mariani.

Aussies Abroad...

Joe Spiteri (right) has finally found a club in Europe, or should it be the other way round?

Sturm Graz have signed the former Melbourne Knights striker for a fee believed to be around \$440,000, following his unsuccessful trials with Cercle Brugge in Belgium and Sheffield Wednesday and QPR in England.

Graz are currently sitting just below halfway in The 10 team Austrian League and his debut was quite successful as he had a hand in their only goal, but unfortunately they lost 1-3.

There are currently at least seven Aussies on the books of various Greek First Division clubs; Chris Kalantzis (Olympiakos - 1st in League).

Lou Hristodoulou (Panathinaikos - 2nd), Stathis Koyrkoyzelos (Paniliakos - 5th), Steve Labanas (Apollon - 17th), Michael Vakanis (Iraklis - 14th), John Anastasiades (PAOK - 10th) and Michael Panopolis (Aris Salonika - 12th).

Australia's two prime 'exports' are both currently out of regular first-team

action. Ned Zelic at Auxerre is still injured while Paul Okon is out of favour at Lazio who are having a stinker of a season.

The most successful 'Aussie Abroad' has to be Stan Lazaridis at West Ham. The experience he is gaining in the Premier League will be invaluable for Australia's forthcoming World Cup campaign and his name will be the first one to be pencilled in by the new coach, whoever he is. Another fine performance by Stan for the Hammers,

despite the 0-1 defeat by North London rivals Spurs at White Hart Lane.

Carl Veart continues to pop 'em in for Crystal Palace. If he's not careful, the former Adelaide City striker could be on his way to Coventry City in the Premier - who are screaming out for a goalscorer having managed only 4 in 11 games. Just a little rumour.

Carl scored a stunner against former big-guns Ipswich in the Coca Cola Cup but unfortunately for him and his team-mates, the East Anglians hit four.



However, the South Londoners got back onto the winning path a few days later with an emphatic 3-0 win over lowly Grimsby with Carl heading in the second and his sixth of the season.





WOMEN'S WRITES

BY JANENE MAR



CHANCES ARE THERE

Injury, exams and other commitments have meant many players have been unable to attend the current National Training Camp at the AIS. Just eight of Australia's team that toured the USA, just prior to the Olympics, have made it to Canberra.

The situation is hardly ideal, and especially frustrating for Tom Sermanni who had included a lot of team building and group sessions into the program. On the other hand, it does open up opportunities for new players.

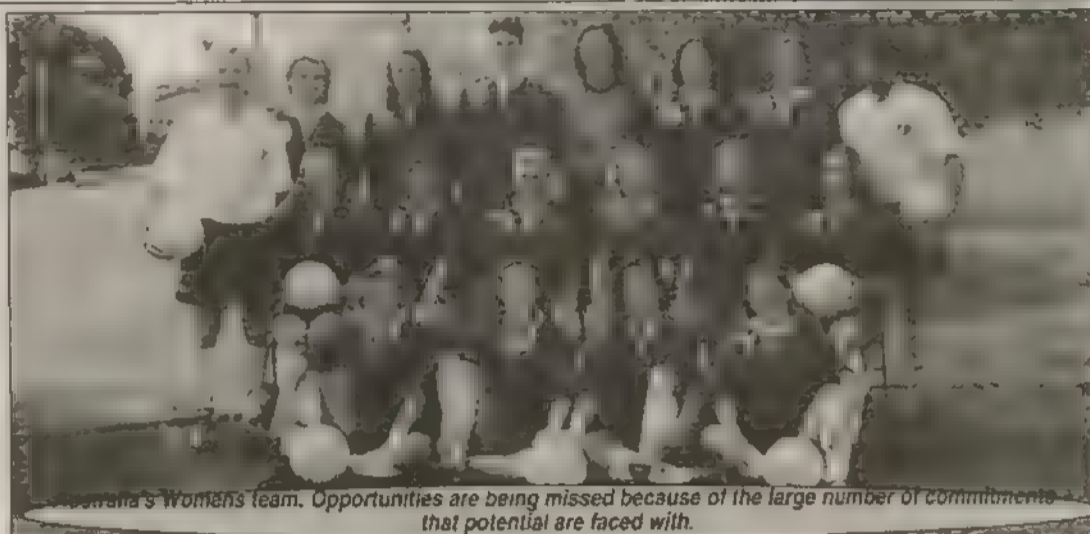
"I am looking to players to grasp the chance, and if they do go out and perform to justify it, they'll get selected,"

said Sermanni. "There are opportunities, as was shown last year."

Sermanni has selected several players for overseas tours over the last twelve months who had not previously been in the National Squad. He feels this is the time to give players a chance and carry out such experimentation, while international results are not paramount. It also demonstrates that Australia is now starting to build a talented base of players.

"I want players to get in there and say 'Yes, I want to be part of this. And I want the situation where players are put under pressure to keep their

position in the Squad. If I was in the team, I'd want to stay there by hook or by crook. But we are still not quite at that stage yet. Some still have the attitude that 'She'll be right', and it's not impressing me."



Australia's Women's team. Opportunities are being missed because of the large number of commitments that potential are faced with.

Gold Medal to Adelaide Spurs in Masters

Adelaide Spurs brought home their own gold medal last week, as champions of the Malanda Queensland Masters Games women's Soccer event at their first attempt in veterans competition.

The Over 30s tournament was run over eight days at the Broadbeach Soccer Club on Queensland's Gold Coast, the seven teams each packing in six matches in seven days before the climax of finals on Sunday November 3.

It soon became evident Adelaide Spurs, home side Broadbeach, and the Sydney Masters would fight it out for the title, holding the top three spots midway through the round-robin. The tension was rising as Broadbeach and Spurs remained undefeated going into their crunch match on day six of play. Broadbeach kept their supporters happy, emerging 2-0 victors. The following day the home side finished top of the ladder, one point ahead of the Adelaide side.

Sydney Masters had to

settle for third spot, edging out Queensland Gold Lady on superior goal difference. The playoff for bronze was just as close, the scores level at 0-0 at the conclusion of normal time, before Sydney finally produced the winner to claim the medal.

Broadbeach started favourites in the final, on home turf with a win over Adelaide Spurs already under their belt. But Spurs had gold in their sights, and the two fought out a tight contest.

Spurs' Cindy Romain was assigned a marking job on Broadbeach's main danger, and effectively hampered the locals' attacking play. Broadbeach were also somewhat surprised by Adelaide's speed up front with the return of two players missing from their earlier clash. The frustration grew as for the first time in the week the Broadbeach goal was under siege.

With no score at the break, the match was still very much up for grabs. Then, with Spurs creating danger in attack,

Macian Jarman was taken down in the box. Franca Di Bartolo stepped up for the resultant penalty, and converted what was to be the winning goal.

Adelaide were delighted to turn the tables on the locals and take the honours. "I think we were the better team overall, but it was very even all week. It was a very good competition," said Spurs' Vicky Merris, the oldest at the Masters at a spritely forty eight.

A defender all her playing days, Merris was asked to slot into midfield, and enjoyed her new role, chipping in with three goals. "It just goes to show what you can do," said the Modbury Vista player. "I trained really hard before we went away. I said I don't want to make a fool of myself."

Merris was one of a small band of players at Salisbury United who got women's soccer off the ground in South Australia about twenty years ago. A late starter at age twenty-nine, Merris was drawn in to Soccer through her six-

POINTS LADDER:

Broadbeach	6	5	1	0	16
Adelaide Spurs	6	5	0	1	15
Sydney Masters	6	3	1	2	10
Gold Lady	6	3	1	2	10
Brisbane Troppos	6	2	0	4	6
Far North Coast Kelics	6	1	0	5	3
Paradise Breakers	6	0	1	5	1

year-old son.

Team spirit was to prove an important ingredient in Adelaide's success. "Everyone wanted the gold, and everyone applied themselves. It was a good team effort," said Merris. "We all combined so well, and tried 100%."

Coach Alan Hulls used the five player interchange rule to maximum benefit in the heavy match schedule and Queensland weather. The midfield and forward lines were swapped on and off, whilst keeping the back line stable. Spurs' tactics were aided by the ability of everyone to adapt to playing different positions.

The team, organised by the SA Women's Soccer Association, had been presented with their strip at the recent State awards night. Consisting of several former State representatives including SAWSA President Shirley Brown, about half continue to play through the season. The remainder were coerced into once again pulling on their boots for the event.

These are the players it is hoped will be enthused to take up regular competition again. The interest is certainly there, and SAWSA is confident of forming a masters division next season.

Cooper Surgery

Australian team member Sarah Cooper undergoes knee reconstruction surgery this week after sustaining the injury in the ACT Academy versus NSW Institute match at the beginning of the month. Closer examination revealed she had torn cruciate and medial ligaments as well as her calf muscle.

Recently moving to Canberra, Cooper was starting a new phase in her football career starting with the summer league and of course international team commitments.

On top of all that, she had been due to start a new job at the Tuggeranong United Rugby Club gyn, a position



Sarah Cooper: Knee reconstruction underway

she had secured through the Olympic Job Opportunities Program.

1.2m at the time. It was a lot more physical and I got a lot more injuries because the standard wasn't as good."

"It's got better now though. There are a lot more younger girls starting to play. There's about eight teams in the south and ten up north, and the standard is improving. Also a lot more work is now going into women's soccer. We are starting to get a bit of publicity and more people are learning about the game. It's come a long way since I first played women's. Then there was hardly anything for young girls."

But for a distant State with a small player base, the problems faced are more prominent. This year Tasmania could not field a State Youth side with many players unable to afford to travel. This was unfortunate after an impressive fourth placing the previous year.

Nolan was named Best and Fairest in Tasmania's southern region in 1993, an important event in her career to date. "I was pretty young then, and it encouraged me a lot to keep going." Other highlights include captaining last year's State Junior Team,

her two selections into the Australian Junior Squad, and her senior State debut.

Juggling boys' and women's soccer, State, ITC, Academy and club matches and training, Nolan has only one day off a week during the season, and sometimes has to decide between them when there is a clash. At the moment, she is doing most of her training on her own, and also has training with her women's club Kingborough, plus men's training and indoor.

On the old occasion when she can find the time, the Hobart teenager enjoys getting away for a spot of snow skiing. In earlier days she would play a number of different sports, but now concentrates on her true passion of Soccer. She recalls her decision to take up the game, came about in an amusing fashion.

"My friend did ballet and I went along too. I only stayed for half the lesson - I couldn't stand it. My brother played Soccer, so I tried it, and have loved it ever since."

Despite not having all the advantages of players in other States, Nolan holds high ambitions for the future.

NOLAN'S BIG CHANCE

The summer league will present some great opportunities for our top young players, something that Zoe Nolan from Tasmania had thought she would be missing out on.

However a telephone call from Women's Australia coach, Tom Sermanni a fortnight ago brought the good news that Nolan was to be Tasmania's second draft player after goalkeeper Carolyn Lynch. The extra berth came about with the decision of fellow State player Sarah Fitzgerald to move to the mainland and play for NNSW.

"I was very surprised. I didn't expect it at all,"

recalled Nolan on hearing the news. "The other two Tasmanians had been told in Darwin (at the National Championship)."

The 17 year old's only previous involvement at national level is a couple of training camps in 1994 and 1995 as part of the National Junior Squad, but she came under the eye of Sermanni at the recent Senior Nationals. "It's the best National I've had so far, and is actually my first at senior level."

Nolan will pull on Victoria's colours for the league kicking off on December 6, just after she finished Year 12 exams. She knows little about her adopted

team or its players, but is looking forward to it all. "Jeff Oliver was at last year's camp. He's a good coach, but I don't really know him that well."

"Especially leading up to 2000, we needed something like this, with the best players all playing against each other," added Nolan. The opportunity for the players from across Bass Strait to participate alongside those from the bigger States means more than most people probably realise.

Isolated from the mainland and without its own Sports Institute program, the islanders are at a disadvantage. But despite the difficulties, the effort is being

made to improve the situation for the State's top female footballers.

An Under 16 girls' Academy team has been formed and this year played in the U14 boys competition. Nolan plays in the U18 boys' Academy, with Lynch and Fitzgerald competing in the men's Division One. Nolan is also one of five girls training once a week with the boys, and is grateful for the support she has received from Tasmanian Soccer official David Smith to help get involved in such programs.

"If females want to improve, that's the way they've got to go, playing with the males," said Nolan.

"If you stick in women's soccer, there's not that far you can go. It takes the boys a while to get used to you, but once they realise you can play, it's okay. After just one season, it's now great."

Boys' soccer is nothing new to Nolan after mixing it with them since Under 6s. In fact until four years ago, the young Nolan was never aware girls' soccer even existed. "I had no idea women played until someone told me." So Nolan decided to join the women's ranks the following season, but found the competition not quite to her liking.

"It was scary playing against big women. I was only

SOUTH AMERICA

— COMPILED BY MARIO ETCHART —

INDEPENDIENTE BEATS BOCA JUNIORS AWAY FROM HOME

Independiente defeated Boca Juniors, 1-0, at Boca's own "Bombonera" stadium, in the Argentine league first phase most important derby, and shares second place with Lanus, three points behind the leader, River Plate.

It wasn't only a derby between two of the most important clubs in the country, but the confrontation of two arch enemies, Cesar Luis Menotti, coach of Independiente, and Carlos Salvador Bilardo, in charge of Boca Juniors.

Both coaches took Argentina to win the World Cup, Menotti in 1978, and Bilardo in 1986. But both are preaching very different ideas of how to play the most popular sport in the world. Menotti prefers the expression of talent and skills from his players while Bilardo is a

fanatic of the discipline and the strict tactical system, with emphasis on defence and total sacrifice over the 90 minutes of play.

The derby went Menotti's way this time, with a goal from Francisco Guerrero in the 66th minute. Independiente finished with ten men and Boca with nine after the sending off, in the second half, of defenders Pablo Rotchen (Independiente) and Nestor Fabbri and Nestor Lorenzo (Boca Juniors) respectively.

Meanwhile, River Plate, whose enjoying one of its best seasons playing an attacking style, defeated Estudiantes de La Plata, 1-0 away, with a goal from midfielder Marcelo Escudero, in the 59th minute, after a great combination with Enzo Francescoli.

Lanus, one of the great revelations of the season, beat

San Lorenzo 3-1 and kept its hopes of winning the championship, for the first time in its history, alive.

A very young and talented side, they are having a very good campaign in the South American Conmebol Cup, Lanus outclassed San Lorenzo and took three important points. Oscar Mena (penalty), Argentine international midfielder Hugo Morales, and Gaston Coyette, scored for Lanus while veteran Nestor Gorosito pulled one back for the "saints".

In other games, Racing Club, guided by former Argentine national coach Alfio Basile, won 1-0 against Banfield, with a goal from striker Fernando Quiroz.

The Santa Fe derby between Rosario Central and Newell's Old Boys ended in a 1-1 draw. Damian Pacciutto scored for Rosario and Mauro

Gert netted for Newell's.

Other results: Platense 4 Velez Sarsfield 4, Deportivo Espanol 1 Gimnasia y Esgrima de La Plata 2, Huracan 3 Union 0, Gimnasia y Esgrima de Jujuy 2 Ferro Carril Oeste 2, Colon 1 Huracan of Corrientes 1.

After ten rounds, River Plate leads the competition with 25, followed by Lanus and Independiente with 22; Racing Club, Velez Sarsfield and Gimnasia y Esgrima de La Plata with 18; Newell's Old Boys 15; San Lorenzo and Boca Juniors 14; Rosario Central 13; Colon and Gimnasia y Esgrima de Jujuy 11; Deportivo Espanol, Huracan of Corrientes and Ferro Carril Oeste 9; Union, Estudiantes, Banfield and Huracan 8, and Platense 7.

★ ★ ★

COLO COLO DOWNED BY CRUZEIRO IN SUPER CUP

Cruzeiro of Brazil creached the final of the 1996 South American Supercup, after its brilliant 4-0 away victory over current Chilean league leader, Colo Colo, in Santiago.

The Brazilians, playing an excellent counter attacking

game, took the lead early in the first half when striker Palinha, with a powerful header, beat Colo Colo's Uruguayan goalkeeper Claudio Arbiza in the 5th minute.

Palinha, who was unstoppable, added the second in the 34th and

completed his hat trick in the 43rd, while his fellow striker, Ailton scored the fourth in the 75th.

Cruzeiro, who will face either Argentine champion Velez Sarsfield or compatriots Santos, in the final, also won the first leg, played in Belho Horizonte, by 3 goals to 2.

FIRST LEG TO VELEZ SARSFIELD

Argentine champion Velez Sarsfield defeated Santos of Brazil, 2-1, in one of the South American Supercup semifinals, played at Santos' Joao Havelange stadium of Uberlandia, in the northern state of Minas Gerais, in front of only 2,500 spectators.

Velez went 1-0 ahead in the 11th minute when striker Posse beat goalkeeper Edinho. But in the 22nd Alessandro levelled the scoreline for Santos.

A doubtful handball inside the box by Santos defender Jean de Santos, in the 89th minute, resulted in a penalty



by referee Jose Luis Da Rosa. Velez's Paraguayan international goalkeeper Jose Luis Chilavert, once again, converted it beating Santos keeper Edinho with a powerful shot. Edinho is the

son of the great Pele.

SANTOS: Edinho, Anderson, Narciso, Jean de Santos, Marcos Adriano (Carlinhos), Marcos Assuncao, Vagner (Robert), Pia, Camanducaia, Alessandro, Jamelli.

COACH: Jose Teixeira.
VELEZ SARSFIELD: Chilavert, Herrera, Mendez Pellegrino, Cardozo, Husain, Gomez (Zandonna), Bassedas, Mongi, Posse, Camps.

COACH: Osvaldo Piazza.
YELLOW CARDS: Mendez, Posse and Chilavert (Velez Sarsfield); Marco Adriano and Narciso (Santos).

MEXICO QUALIFIES FOR SECOND ROUND IN CONCACAF

Mexico defeated Honduras 3-1, in a group 3 game played at Mexico City's Azteca stadium, in front of 110,000 people, and became the first team to qualify for the CONCACAF World Cup second qualifying round.

The Mexicans dominated the encounter for most of the 90 minutes and took the lead, in the 31st minute, when midfielder Benjamin Galindo took advantage of a Honduran defensive blunder

and beat goalkeeper Milton Flores with a well placed shot against the left post.

Striker Miguel Heronsillo put Mexico 2-0 up, in the 35th, and in the 44th, in a clear off-side position, Roberto Alves added the third for the winner.

Honduras pulled one back, in the 70th minute, when German Centeno was brought down by Mexican defender Pavel Pardo and Costa Rican referee Rodrigo Badilla awarded a penalty. Replacement Carlos Pavon hit



the post from the penalty spot and German Centeno scored from the rebound.

MEXICO: Campos, Pardo, Suarez, Davino, Ramirez, Rodriguez (Blanco), Coyote (Villa), Galindo, Garcia Aspe (Bernal), Heronsillo, Alves.

COACH: Milutinovic.
HONDURAS: Flores, Membrero, Cruz, Arzu, Zpata, Guevara, Santamaria, Pineda (Obando), Centeno, Smith (Pavon), Nunez (Suazo).
COACH: Garcia.

FIFA GROUP REJECTS TIME OUTS

Some of the leading personalities in world soccer rejected last week the concept of time-outs and two referees and expressed mixed views on the golden goal.

Task Force 2000, a 24-man group including Johan Cruyff, Franz Beckenbauer and Michel Platini set up after the sterile 1990 World Cup, met for three hours in Zurich, Switzerland.

Beckenbauer, the only man to captain and manage a World Cup winning team, said afterwards, "We met for three hours and we are not going to change the world of soccer in that time. But a lot of good ideas came out in discussion. We must remember that we should not complicate football, as one of its real qualities is its simplicity.

Nevertheless, it's time too, to keep it alive with new ideas."

The golden goal was used to decide this year's European championship in which Germany beat the Czech Republic 2-1 with Oliver Bierhoff scoring the sudden-death winner.

But opinion was divided on its future. Cruyff was in favour of an American-style shoot-out to decide drawn matches, while Platini said he preferred the golden goal.

"It is based on a positive concept of a goal being scored," he said. Beckenbauer felt the idea should be given another chance, while FIFA president Joao Havelange said he was in favour of penalties deciding matches after 90 minutes.

But FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter said: "Almost

everybody was, in principle, against the golden goal idea, and everyone was against the idea of time-outs."

The idea of introducing time-outs into the game has been mooted by TV executives keen for more advertising time being made available during matches.

Beckenbauer, former German international Hansi Mueller and Havelange himself were strongly opposed to the idea and Blatter said, "Time-outs are not a hot issue for FIFA right now. It is a problem for TV, it is not FIFA's problem, it is TV's problem."

One suggestion which could gain approval was a further refinement of the back-pass rule, introduced two years ago to speed up the game at the back with the

goalkeeper no longer able to catch the ball kicked back to him by one of his own teammates.

Goalkeepers can still hold the ball headed or chested back, but in future the law may be altered so that goalkeepers can again catch the ball kicked back to them but only for four or five seconds.

Platini and former Italian international Roberto Bettega said they were opposed to the idea of the back pass rule being re-drafted to prevent a back pass with any part of the body, while Bettega said there should be experiments forcing the goalkeeper to play the ball back into play more quickly.

There was widespread opposition to the idea of two referees being introduced to

officials at matches.

Former Dutch and AC Milan striker Marco Van Basten had a novel idea which raised some eyebrows that football should adopt the basketball rule that if a player commits five fouls he is sent off but replaced by a substitute.

While all of these points were only for discussion, some of them may be adopted by national associations and put forward as proposals to football's law-making body, the International Board, which meets in Belfast on March 1.

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VASCO DA GAMA BEAT INDEPENDIENTE SANTA FE

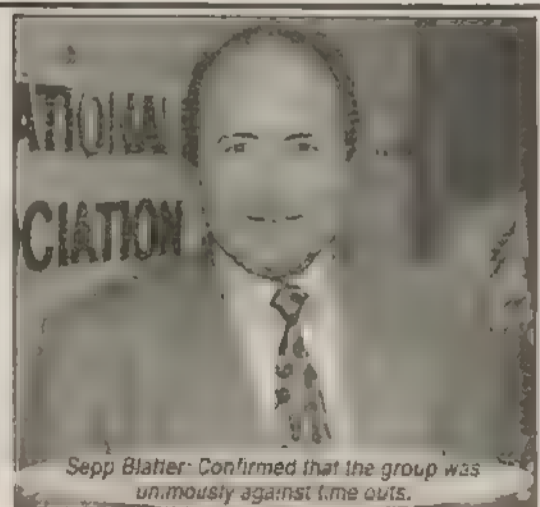
Vasco Da Gama of Brazil defeated Independiente Santa Fe of Colombia, 2-1, in the first leg of the Conmebol Cup semifinals, played at Rio's Maracana stadium, in front of only 1,500 fans.

Striker Ranielli scored both Vasco's goals in the 44th and 49th minutes. Francisco Withigan netted for the Colombians in the 89th through a penalty

VASCO DA GAMA: Carlos Germano, Penentel, Joao Luis, Sydney, Cassio, Luisinho, Nelson (Ranielli), Juninho (Toninho), Ramon, Macedo, Edmundo.

COACH: Antonio Lopes.
INDEPENDIENTE SANTA FE: Dudame, N Flores, O Garces, Mendez, Upegui, Villamizar, Gutierrez (Hurtado), J Salcedo, R Vidales, G Diaz (Hoyos), F Withigan.

COACH: Pablo Centrone.
YELLOW CARDS: Pimentel and Luizinho (Vasco Da Gama), Willamizar and Salcedo (Independiente Santa Fe).



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United fans spoilt by success?

Manchester United lost their third league game in a row for the first time since Moses was a boy but what's all the fuss about? Alex Ferguson has just completed his tenth year in charge and if it happened to another club, there wouldn't be as much speculation as there is at Old Trafford, such is the high standard they've set themselves over the past couple of seasons.

Probably the most alarming thing was to see so many of their supporters leaving the ground with 15 minutes of the match with Chelsea still remaining! Why? The chances were there to save the game but was there a rumble of thunder in Lancashire or was it the distinct sound of booing? Unfortunately it was the latter and some are even talking about Ferguson being 'on his way'. How ludicrous. Thankfully, Ferguson has stated that rather than look back at the past 10 years, he is: "Still hungry and has no thoughts about retiring".

He has led the club to eight trophies in his 10 years, something it took the great Sir



Matt Busby 24 years to achieve but Ferguson will never be counted as better or as good as the late Sir Matt by the Old Trafford faithful until he lifts the European Cup.

Perhaps the supporters of Manchester United have become too used to winning and forgotten that football teams do lose games along the way but to suggest a problem

with the side at this early stage is going a bit too far. Sure, Cantona is completely out of form, Giggs is sidelined through injury and Schmeichel looks to have lost

confidence but it'll turn around soon enough no doubt.

When asked why he let Paul Ince go to Inter in the Serie A, to a howl of protest from the fans, he replied: "I let him go to let everyone know I wouldn't accept failure. I was angry at losing the Cup Final and angry at losing the League, although not as much as losing the Cup. I said to the players in the dressing-room - Some of you let us down, and some of you let yourselves down - and I wasn't prepared to accept it. There had been a lot of talk about Paul going to Italy, much of it coming from Paul, so I thought - let's put it to the test".

The rest, as they say, is history. Ferguson is a workaholic, dedicated to the cause and above all a winner. A hard taskmaster some may say but it's his job to create and blend the side, it's the players job to do the business on the pitch.

Congratulations to Alex Ferguson and once again, all the very best for the future.

★ ★ ★

BEARDSLEY STILL HAS YEARS IN HIM

Congratulations to Peter Beardsley on his 700th league appearance and on scoring twice in a typical Newcastle display of football style, hard work and flair, matching the thoughts of manager Kevin Keegan who has been attempting to find this style since taking over at the club.

It was wonderful to see Beardsley run straight over to his seven year old son Drew after netting the first from the penalty spot. Drew was actually supposed to be a ball boy for the day in what must

be seen as a magnificent gesture by the club.

At 35, the Newcastle skipper is still going strong but the former England man is harshly judged, on present performances, as being in the twilight of his career but could there be another Sir Stanley Matthews on the horizon and will we see Peter Beardsley still knocking them in when he's 50, in 2011?

A terrific milestone in his personal career and a great result for the club. We wish him all the best for the future.

★ ★ ★

Live interviews abound

Many thanks for the remarks made about our 'Soccer Stop' show on Radio Uno/One (Wednesday nights 8-10pm) and for the queries about this column last week. Please be assured that it's non-appearance was beyond my control completely.

But back to 'Soccer Stop', it's the only show that had a 'live' interview with Martin Tyler from the UK and Paul Wade, David Hill, Raul Blanco, Branco Culina, Laurie Couch, Mat Bingley, Francis Awaritife, Brad Maloney, David Ratcliffe, Steve Darby, Mickey Lyons etc. A full two hours of fun packed information and irreverent looks at the local Ericsson Cup and World football.

"Soccer Stop" can be found in Sydney on: 1620AM, Katoomba 87FM, Wollongong and Sutherlandshire 97FM, Newcastle 1314AM and associated stations around the NSW state. Tune in and have some fun.

CELTIC DROP SILLY POINTS

Celtic sit pretty atop the Scottish Premier League for the first time in 14 months, albeit on goal difference, from 'auld firm' rivals Rangers, such has been the blue side of Glasgow's dominance in recent years.

We said at the start of the year that the side that won the most derby games would probably win the league this year, because for the first time in many seasons, there isn't too much difference between the two on playing strength.

The one thing that may go against Celtic though is that they drop too many silly points in games they surely should win. Not every game will be a classic or a walk-over but the champion sides always grind out results even when playing badly.

Harry Redknapp said after the game

at White Hart Lane last week, where his West Ham side went down 0-1 to Spurs: "We'll play worse than that this year and win". Perhaps the Hammers should have come away with the points but they didn't - they left empty handed because Tottenham kept going and all it took was one slip in the second-half and Armstrong gratefully snapped up the opportunity.

Next instalment between the two Glasgow giants is this Thursday night, 14 Nov, but check with Martin White at the Greenwood Tree Hotel (9331 1563) as it's possible it may be on 'live' on the big screen. With Rangers having beaten Celtic 2-0 in their first encounter of the season, it's shaping up to be a cracking match.



Hung dead monkey curse

During the Napoleonic Wars, the people of Hartlepool hung a half-dead monkey believing it to be a French spy and now some 200 years or so later, it appears that this may have cursed the town for, as some see it, divine retribution has been poured on this scrap of north eastern England by the bucket load in the shape of Hartlepool United FC.

As Middlesbrough went down 1-3 to Newcastle on the other Sunday in a passion filled north east derby at St James Park in front of nearly 40,000 people, Hartlepool supporters saw so many 'high balls' during their match that it brought to mind some words spoken by their first ever 'successful' manager, a Mr Brian Clough, who said: "If God had meant us to play football in the air, he'd have put grass

in the sky." The only consolation for the supporters was that they could at least look up and out to see the tankers lazily turning in the North Sea a short distance from the ground.

As it happens, the match resulted in a 2-3 loss to bottom of the division Brighton, a club with even worse problems than their own. With no money, an ageing ground and a crowd of just 1,683 for the game, things look bleak for the club and their chances of making it up there with their big boy neighbours, Newcastle, Middlesbrough and Sunderland, look slight to say the least.

Without clubs like Hartlepool, what a boring world it would be. Let's hope their supporters can watch at least one game this term without having to wear their neckbraces plus, they actually win a game.



Detailed updates of all games direct from London
with John Boughtwood from 6.30am

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EAST FIFE

BY STUART JONES

Ground:	Bayview Park
Address:	Wellesley Road, Methil, Fifeshire, KY8 3AG
Railway Station:	Kirkcaldy (8 miles!)
Founded:	1903
Admitted to League:	1903
Ground Capacity:	5,385
Seats:	600
Pitch Size:	110 yd *71 yd
Largest Gate:	22,515 v Raith Rovers Division 1, 2 Jan 1950
Biggest Win:	13-2 v Edinburgh City Division Two 11 Dec 1937
Heaviest Defeat:	0-9 v Hearts Division 1, 5 October 1957 26 October 1889
Nickname:	The Fifers
Colours:	Amber with Black collar
Honours:	Division 2, 1947-48 Scottish Cup 1938 League Cup 1947-48, 1949-50, 1953-54

History: The club were originally known as East of Fife when three towns, Buckhaven, Leven and Methil, joined together in 1903. They played their first game at Bayview against Hearts in August 1903. In 1938 they became the first second division club to win the Scottish Cup. The years following the second world war were the best for the Fifers. They even had their first derby in the first division against Raith, the game drawing their record crowd. Three League Cup wins saw the club's finances improve and with that came floodlights in 1954. They played Leeds for their first match under lights. In the 1980's the ground was completely modernised, however expectations of ground standards have increased since then. Today there are only seats for 600 spectators. The ground is tight and sea breezes come in from behind the ground. As Simon Inglis puts it in the Football Grounds of Great Britain where most of the history part of this series is gleaned. "It could just be that the ground is the only site stopping sports lovers from carrying straight on up the road to St Andrews." Currently East Fife are playing in the First division after promotion last season, however they are struggling. As Martin Tyler said on Radio Uno last week talking exclusively to Micky and me about British Football the real fans are those who support these smaller teams, no matter what. Hats off to supporters of East Fife for their knowledge of football would probably be greater than any of us in Australia, journos included. East Fife will always struggle in terms of money but we always look forward to their clashes with Forfar (which don't happen at the moment due to Forfar being in Division 3). We all look out for that 'classic' East Fife 4 Forfar 5 result!

STRACHAN TAKES OVER FROM ATKINSON

Ron Atkinson stepped down last week as manager of struggling Coventry City, handing over to his assistant Gordon Strachan.

Atkinson, who was appointed as Coventry boss in February 1995, now becomes the club's director of football.

He was a moderate player with Oxford United but has had a reasonable amount of success as a Manager with West Bromwich Albion, Manchester United and Aston Villa.

Strachan had been set to

take over the manager's seat at the end of the season with Atkinson moving upstairs.

Coventry chairman Bryan Richardson said that Atkinson had seen him last week and asked for the arrangement to be brought forward.

Richardson denied that Atkinson, whose side have made a poor start to the season, had been sacked or had jumped before he was pushed.

"He was not sacked at all," Richardson told BBC Radio. "He came and approached me at the end of last week to

discuss the idea of Gordon taking over the running of the team.

"All we've done is bring forward exactly what we said before. It was his original idea that when Gordon came to us that there was this absolute and firm plan." Strachan, a former Scotland international, has been playing in reserve team games while also operating as the club's assistant manager.

Last month both Atkinson and Strachan were disciplined for misconduct at a Reserves game against West Brom.



Ron Atkinson (L) and Gordon Strachan in moves at Coventry.

Weird and Wonderful

By STUART JONES

From this week this column looks more at the history of the game in the UK. Due to the fact I write this a week before publication, the news I try to keep you in touch with is out of date before its in print. Not better exemplified by the fact Nick Barmby moved to Everton when all the talk was early that he could go to Villa. I hope you are all enjoying the Scottish Club focus, its not often Scotland is mentioned. In fact its largely ignored by journos out here, including myself at times...

Great quotes from Commentators:

"We went down like a sack of potatoes and then made a meal of it" Trevor Brooking. "And now for the goals from Carrow Road — where the game ended nil nil" Elton Welsby.

☛ Alex Merrie was transferred from Scotland to England and back seven times between 1925 and 1935. His clubs included giants like Brechin, Aldershot, and Gloucester City!!

☛ Martin McDonnell joined in turn, Birmingham, Coventry and Derby between 1947 and 1955. The similarity in the equation being Harry Storer who was the manager of the different clubs on each occasion. Barry Fry and John Beck seem to wish to emulate this. Although Collymore at London Road, Peterborough seems a long shot.

☛ Barry Dyson might, have been a tad unlucky. In September 1966 he left Tranmere for Palace and at season's end Tranmere went up. In October 1967 he moved to Watford and in December 1968 moved to Orient. At season's end Palace were promoted as were Watford (who were champions). In 1970 top of the Third were Orient, and Dyson at last had something to celebrate in terms of promotion!

☛ Alan Waddle is not a name even Liverpool fans may remember. He only made 14 senior appearances, and only scored one goal. It happens that was the winner in a game against Everton!!

☛ Bobby Langton (Bl ackburn, Preston and Bolton) played 11 times for England but only four were at home. What was worse is none of those appearances were at Wembley — he played twice at Highbury, once at Maine Road, and once at Huddersfield! Not meaning to offend but I am not sure that last ground had the same aura surrounding a game as at Wembley!

☛ An interesting fact about Eusebio. In his 27th senior match he hit the woodwork twice against England in 1961. Up until then he scored in every one of his first 26 senior games.

☛ And wouldn't you grow exasperated with the team. In 1956-57 St Etienne drew 16 and won 6 games in a spell of 22 games. I'm not sure on the end of that run the manager would say, "We were happy with the one point."

☛ Did you know? Carlisle United.

Chris Balderstone made 369 full appearances for United scoring 68 goals. Chris also played cricket for Yorkshire and then Leicestershire.

☛ Peter Beardsley was brought to Carlisle for a set of jerseys from his old club Wallsend.

☛ Ieve Harkness (currently at Liverpool) started at Carlisle United in the youth team, joining the senior squad in March 1989.

☛ John Gorman — Scottish player and now England assistant coach had six seasons at United. That included the one season that United made the First division.

☛ The only team Carlisle have not met in League football is ... Man Utd. The one year the club made the top grade one of teams that had gone down was United and they swapped places again at season's end.

☛ Actually United won that season followed by Aston Villa and Norwich, all three going up. That was 1974-75, in 1992/93 it ended Man Utd, Villa and Norwich this time in the Premier League!

☛ Finally we look at the table from the very first season in England of the Football League. Preston were undefeated and also won the FA Cup, defeating Wolves in the final 3-0, scorers being Dewhurst, Ross and Thomson. It was played at Kennington Oval the home of Surrey in Cricket's County Championship. Preston played only four games to qualify for the final that year scoring eight unanswered goals along the way! The Southern League was not officially created until 1894.



Martin Tyler: Talking on Sydney radio station Uno 1620AM with Jones & Brock.

1888-89 LEAGUE TABLE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Preston NE	22	10	1	0	39	7	8	3	0	35	8	40
Aston Villa	22	10	0	1	44	16	2	5	4	17	27	29
Wolves	22	8	2	1	30	14	4	2	5	20	23	28
Blackburn R	22	7	4	0	44	22	3	2	6	22	23	26
Bolton W	22	6	0	5	35	30	4	2	5	28	29	22
WBA	22	5	2	3	25	24	4	0	7	15	22	22
Accrington	22	5	3	3	25	17	1	5	5	22	31	20
Everton	22	8	0	3	24	17	1	2	8	11	29	20
Burnley	22	5	3	2	21	19	1	0	10	21	43	17
Derby Co	22	5	1	5	22	20	2	1	8	19	41	16
Notts Co	2	4	2	5	25	32	1	0	10	15	41	12
Stoke	22	3	4	4	15	18	1	0	10	11	33	12

Just a couple of notes:—

1. The Ericsson Cup is very exciting this season and there have been some great games. The players and coaches have been very accessible to the media and a big hello-to the officials at Marconi and UTS Olympic. The guys at Olympic like Steve Darby and their President are great supporters of the game, and the real supporters of this country should support officials like these. Okay they are not perfect but they are trying new things, some work some dont. Let's be critical where we have to but let's also give them support when they are doing the right thing.

2. Three sources of information when looking to keep up with all the football news. The internet has an incredible up to date score service for many clubs around the world — even Macclesfield Town has its own site! Check it out down at your local library if it has the facilities — it's worth exploring! Secondly Optus Vision have some great shows on about Soccer. On CNN and Sky news there are regular updates. On Sports Australia, Robbie Wheatley has two great shows one on English Soccer the other on Australian Soccer keeping us up to date. So check it now if you can get it.

Thirdly don't forget Sydney readers to tune into 1620 right on the end of the dial every Wednesday between 8 pm and 10 pm for the Soccer show with the most interviews and the latest news when it comes to the World Game in Sydney. Radio Uno is number one not just in Italian. Oh yes the show is in English which is great considering two of the presenters only speak that language!!

☛ Well have a great week in football, the game we all love. I hope the stats have not been too far off the mark. Yes, but in my industry the customer is always right...

You lose some, you win some

A football fan has been reunited with the wedding ring he lost at a stadium 350 kms from home, thanks to an extraordinary coincidence.

Chris Turner's gold ring flew off his left hand into the 40,000 crowd as he celebrated a Southampton goal at Liverpool's Anfield ground last month.

After the match, which Liverpool won 2-1, he searched for 15 minutes with the

help of his wife, Jackie, and 10 stewards but there was no sign of the ring and the couple went home to Poole, Dorset.

Four days later, secretary Jackie, mentioned the loss as she chatted to her friend Sandy Richmond in the staff room of the school at Parkstone, Poole, where they both work.

To her amazement, Sandy said her 12-year-old son Howard had also been at the

game and had found a wedding ring, which he handed to police.

When Jackie broke the good news to her husband, he contacted Merseyside police, who sent the ring by registered post.



UK STORIES

WALES DEMOLISHED BY HOLLAND

Manager Bobby Gould said today Welsh soccer had hit rock bottom but insisted he would not resign despite a 7-1 thrashing by the Netherlands, the worst World Cup defeat ever suffered by Wales.

Asked if he was thinking of stepping down, he snapped back a defiant "no". Gould said there had been harsh words for the players in the dressing room after the game but refused to publicly condemn them.

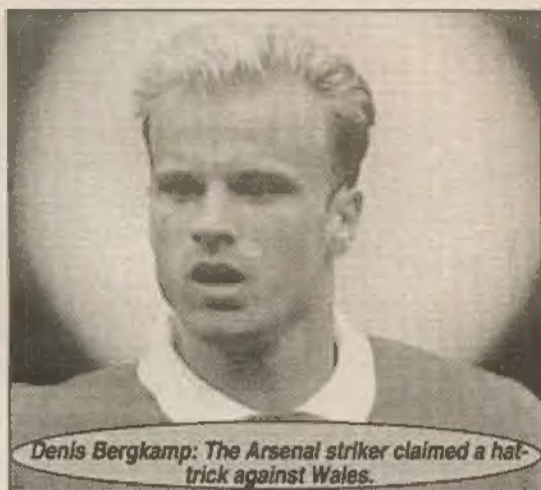
"We're all in this together," said Gould. "We've hit rock bottom. The players have all

said they are at the lowest ebb of their careers and so am I.

"We saw a great team give a wonderful performance tonight. They were better than us in every position — except perhaps the goalkeeper," said Gould, acknowledging a debt to Neville Southall, without whose heroics the score could have been in double figures.

Goals for Holland came from Bergkamp, who helped himself to a hat-trick, the de Boer twins Ronald and Frank and one each to Cocu and Wim Jonk.

Saunders replied for the humiliated Welsh.



Denis Bergkamp: The Arsenal striker claimed a hat-trick against Wales.

PRESSURE FORCES COPPEL OUT

The pressure felt by managers within modern football was emphasised when Steve Coppell quit over the weekend after only 33 days in charge of Manchester City.

Coppell, 41, admitted he was completely overwhelmed by the plight of a big-city club struggling in the first division after being relegated from the premier league last season.

He appeared at a resignation news conference alongside chairman Francis Lee to say: "I'm not ashamed to admit that I have suffered for some time from huge pressure I have imposed upon myself, and since my appointment this has

completely overwhelmed me to such an extent that I cannot function in the job the way I would like to.

"This situation is affecting my well-being. I'm extremely embarrassed by the situation and I would like to apologise to Francis Lee and his board, who have done everything in their power to help me."

Lee, an England player of the 1960s and 70s before becoming a successful



businessman, said: "I have spoken to him two or three times every day this week. He is better today than on Monday or Tuesday. But he has insisted on going."

There was sympathy within the English game for Coppell, widely described as "too nice to be a manager".

Professional Footballers' Association chief executive Gordon Taylor was stunned by Coppell's decision. He said: "It illustrates the kind of

pressure people are under in football."

As a player with Manchester United, Coppell won 42 England caps on the wing between 1978 and 1983 before a knee injury forced him to retire at 29.

A university graduate (a rarity in English football) and one of the game's deep thinkers, he was expected to make an impact as a coach.

He enjoyed some success as the league's youngest manager at Crystal Palace, leading them to the 1990 F.A. Cup Final and forcing a replay against Manchester United before losing.

He also took Palace into the Premier League but they were relegated in 1993.

Estonia to have second chance

Scotland has been ordered by FIFA to replay the World Cup qualifier against Estonia before March 16.

The match on October 9 was abandoned after Estonia failed to show up.

The kick-off had been brought forward after

Scotland complained about the poor lighting at the ground.

Despite no opposition, Scotland kicked off and three seconds later the referee blew time and awarded the match to the Scots.



Leighton brilliance saves Scots

Veteran goalkeeper Jim Leighton celebrated his 75th cap with a series of breathtaking stoppages as Scotland scored a famous 1-0 victory over Sweden in a European World Cup qualifier on Sunday.

Time after time Leighton thwarted the Swedish attack as the Scots grimly protected John McGinlay's early goal.

The victory took Scotland a giant stride along the road to France 98 as they went top of Group Four level on goal difference from Austria.

Bolton striker McGinlay netted his fourth goal in 11 appearances for his country

though it was his first in the World Cup. But it took luck, resolution and sheer brilliance from Leighton to earn three precious points for Scotland.

"There is no doubt that Jim

Leighton saved the victory for Scotland," said Swedish manager Tommy Svensson.

Scotland boss Craig Brown said: "It was great goalkeeping from Jim once again."

"He was awarded with a gold medal from the Scottish Football Association for winning 75 caps and we hope he can go on performing like that for years to come."



FRANCE 98

Bosnich out until Christmas

Knee injury-plagued Australian goalkeeper Mark Bosnich is expected to be out of action until Christmas according to Aston Villa team manager Brian Little. Progress following knee surgery was slower than expected.

"We won't be pushing Mark too fast for his own good," Little told the Daily Mirror newspaper.

A previous knee injury prevented Bosnich from making his first appearance



this season until Villa met Tottenham on October 12, the day he made the controversial Nazi salute

to Spurs fans. He injured his knee again the following week.

Meanwhile, the Football Association is yet to set a date to hear the misconduct charge against Bosnich over the Nazi salute, which he said was based on the TV character Basil Fawlty rather than Adolf Hitler.

A Scotland Yard investigation into the incident, which was the subject of a number of complaints to police, is also not completed.

Brooking felled in media game

Trevor Brooking, England's gentleman soccer player, needed four stitches after being involved in a punch-up with a Georgian journalist during the media match curtain-raiser to England's World Cup qualifier in Tbilisi on Saturday.

The former West Ham and England international said: "It's the worst incident in my career. I never got into this kind of scrape when I was playing professionally."

Brooking, now a respected pundit for BBC TV, was the subject of several crude tackles by Georgian players,

who took delight in hacking at such a well-known opponent.

"One of them clouted me from behind. There was what you might call a verbal exchange. Then, apparently, while this was going on, another fellow ran 20 yards," he said.

"I just saw him at the last minute from the side. He thumped me with a real right hook and he must have caught me with a ring or something because he cut me wide open just above the right eye."

"I just walked away. I only ever had three bookings in my career and I have never been involved in anything like this."

But I knew if I stayed around, it could have got nasty."

Brooking was replaced by FA chief executive Graham Kelly, while the match referee, Daily Mail writer Neil Harman, a fully qualified official, sent off two Georgians.

The match, with England also including in their line-up Ray Wilkins and former Tottenham striker Garth Crooks, finished 1-1, while Brooking was being stitched-up by England's team doctor, Arsenal's Dr John Crane at their hotel.

★ ★ ★

ENGLAND WIN WITHOUT SHEARER

Paul Gascoigne might well be a self-confessed wife-beater, but he showed on Saturday that despite his well-documented human failings he is still an outstanding footballer.

Born-again Christian Glenn Hoddle, the England coach who ignored demands by women's groups to drop Gascoigne, picking him instead to play in Saturday's 2-0 World Cup qualifying win over Georgia, praised him for his midfield performance which anchored England's win.

Hoddle has never condoned Gascoigne's attack on his wife, Sheryl, but he has encouraged the volatile 29-year-old to be counselled in an attempt to curb some of the wilder excesses of his personality which years ago prompted former England coach Bobby Robson to describe him as being "daft as a brush."

But on Saturday, in the hostile atmosphere of the Boris Paichadze Stadium, Gascoigne gave a mature, disciplined performance that was a huge improvement on the way he played against Poland in England's last

qualifier. Hoddle was full of praise for him afterwards.

"He has coped extremely well," said the England coach. "And to be fair the other players have been fantastic around him."

"I have seen improvement in him already. I'm not saying he is the finished article, but he's shown people he is trying to change. But he is doing it without it affecting him as a footballer."

I think it did take him 10 minutes to settle into his game, but he came through."

While it was not a vintage, virtuoso performance, Gascoigne showed the class that has always singled him out as a special player.

There was no clowning around and not too many signs of the old, impish "Gazza". Instead there was the odd flick here, the little trick there, but Gascoigne curbed the excesses and instead played some thoughtful, useful football which benefited not only himself but his team.

"Further down the line, what we want to see is him playing more and more like

that," said Hoddle, adding, "At the end, we have all got our rewards."

Hoddle was also delighted that England, without skipper Alan Shearer, recovering from a groin injury, won with first-half goals from Teddy Sheringham and Les Ferdinand.

Those goals made it three wins out of three since Hoddle took control of the team after Euro 96 and means they top their qualifying group by three points over Italy, who have played a match less.

"We've now got a psychological advantage when we play Italy in February. I can have a good Christmas now," said Hoddle, part of the England team that won 1-0 on the same ground against the old Soviet Union 10 years ago.

A victory for England, and a personal success for Gascoigne who now just has to bring some order and maturity to his life off the field to match the apparent improvement he has started to make on it.

★ ★ ★

The Stallion Mascot of



MARCONI FAIRFIELD